

PARISH COUNCIL
INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT September 2025 ONWARD
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Potential projects

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Not on Parish Council Land

1. None

Schemes already funded via S106

1. Play equipment for disabled children at West Wood and Recreation Ground
2. Foot path around the Recreation Ground

Quotes and Further Evidence

External References

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Table One

Priority Level	Name and Type of Open Space	Location	Identified need and evidence base	Cost estimate (£)	Funding source
1.	Replacement Pavilion	Hildenborough Recreation ground, Riding Lane	<p>There is a need for modern, innovative and appropriate sporting and community assets in the village of Hildenborough. Our current pavilion used for various sporting clubs on the recreation ground was built in 1932 and no longer meets the needs of the public. With no disabled access and various levels within it is no longer fit for purpose.</p> <p>A modern well insulated building which would provide a wider range of facilities that would include; an efficient heating system, fire exits, all areas accessible to all including wheelchair users, additional meeting rooms, changing rooms and up to date kitchen facilities. As such the Recreation Ground could be used for further recreational activities which require access to changing rooms, kitchen facilities or meeting rooms.</p> <p>Evidence: The current pavilion was built as little more than a wooden hut and neither its means of construction or its layout are fit for purpose today. The current building comprises a kitchen, toilets, pavilion room and store rooms, without heating, unable to be used in the winter. It is of a very poor construction. After many years of repairs and patching up it is no longer economically viable for further refurbishment.</p> <p>The old pavilion is at the end of its useful life, but it is very important that the village has a new sports pavilion in order to support this active and thriving community all year round. Hildenborough is alive and flourishing and we need</p>	Estimated £750,000 to remove and replace existing pavilion	S106 or grants

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			<p>to look ahead to being able to meet the needs of a growing population and encouraging new regular users with modern and improved facilities.</p> <p>A new up to date pavilion would benefit the community hugely. It would provide a community hub for a wide range of uses; sporting but also community based events.</p> <p>Community hubs help build more cohesive and resilient communities which provide community led regeneration.¹ As the population of Hildenborough continues to increase with new building projects. The importance of promoting community cohesion becomes increasingly obvious.</p> <p>It is also clear that the provision of sports venues is beneficial to every layer of a community, from old to young.</p> <p>Positive effects from sports are achieved primarily through physical activity, but secondary effects bring health benefits such as psychosocial and personal development. Because physical activity is increasingly conducted in an organized manner, sport's role in society has become increasingly important over the years, not only for the individual but also for public health.² As such the provision of a suitable sporting venue would have a direct impact on the health of the users.</p>		
2.	West Wood – natural woodland	Hildenborough bounded by Tonbridge, Leigh and Stocks Green Roads	<p>Parts of the footpaths within the woodland area become very wet and boggy during wet weather resulting in restricted use by walkers. A reinforced path with wooden platform covered in wire to avoid slippage whilst walking would encourage year-round exercise for all. In addition, a nature trail and footpath signage would enhance the possible activities and extend the use of this valuable woodland environment.</p> <p>In Addition to footpath improvements, the development and implementation of a 3-year woodland management plan which would include the removal of multiple trees affected by Ash Die Back as well as their replacement planting.</p>	£125,000 (not yet fully costed) Estimate for the accessible footpath £12,000 from Silva Woodland Management.	We will be seeking funding from S106 (if available) and grants

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		<p>Seeking an overall net biodiversity gain as well as a more sustainable and usable woodland.</p> <p>Evidence: With reference to TMBC Technical Reference Strategy, we can see that the mean benefit perceived by the public for places to walk ranks as fourth most important from the list of topics with a mean benefit score of 4.7 (Chart 1, pg.4) We also see that out of those responses 92.3% of people replied that places to walk are very beneficial. (chart 2, Pg.5) We also see from the following chart (chart 3) that places to walk are the second most used open space. We also see there is a need for disabled access to these open spaces and for places to walk for disabled people to ensure safety. This has been indicated as it rates as the fifth most important improvements for a park (Chart 4 Pg.7).³</p> <p>We can also see that from the Population Health Needs, Inequalities and Commissioning Opportunities in West Kent CCG that 20% of premature deaths in the area are caused by circulatory disease (Fig. 32 pg37), increasing to 27% over the age of 65. The ability to provide accessibility to green space throughout the year will provide greater opportunity to the local population to keep fit and healthy and reduce instance of obesity and cardiovascular disease. We also see that in TMBC adults classified as obese or overweight make up 61.9% of the population, again the opportunity that this improvement would provide will have impact.⁴</p> <p>Walking is a simple health behaviour that can reduce rates of chronic disease and ameliorate rising health care costs, with only a modest increase in the number of activity-related injuries. (L-Min Lee, 2008)⁵</p> <p>Forest Research suggest; Good woodland and greenspace design and interpretation can help make people feel welcome and reduce the perception of threats in an unfamiliar environment. A wider range and diversity of individuals and groups should be included and incorporated. (Gov, n.d.). They also suggest; contributing to a new woodland/greenspace culture by thinking</p>	<p>Development of a full design current being commissioned.</p>	
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			<p>more widely than public access normally enjoyed by only certain groups of people undertaking traditional recreational activities - by promoting access at different levels and incorporating a wider range of cultural traditions, including those enjoyed by minority groups.⁶</p> <p>For these reasons, West Wood would benefit from an all-weather foot path encouraging and enabling disabled residents using wheel chairs and residents of all ages to be able to access the green woodland, encouraging health and wellbeing. We also feel that improving the interest of the woodland would make it more attractive to visitors and residence and encourage more usage. Particularly the addition of a nature trail would encourage children to use the woodland and benefit from it.</p> <p>This project is in the early stages of development (May 2023). A feasibility study has been undertaken for an accessible to all footpath with a design currently in the development stage.</p> <p>We are very keen to ensure disabled access to as much of the Parish Council's public space to ensure those with disabilities are able to enjoy the sites.</p> <p>Additionally good woodland management can result in large biodiversity gains. The government document "The benefits of woodland creation: Woods for Nature"⁷ sets out the multiple benefits of well managed woodland for ecology and biodiversity as well as climate change.</p>		
3.	Drainage Improvements	Village Green	<p>The Village Green suffers from both surface water and ground water flooding during the winter months. The Parish Council have looked into various solutions to this. It has been agreed that the only solution would be the installation of a large soakaway with the arisings being used to construct a bund against the eastern boundary to solve the two-fold problem of surface and groundwater flooding. With additional vert-drainage to improve ground water drainage. The bund and surrounding area would be replanted with suitable vegetation in order to stabilise it and lead to a biodiversity gain.</p>	Estimated £62,500	

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		<p>Solving the issue of flooding on the village green will mean that its accessible for members of the public to enjoy for the whole year. It will also improve the safety of the public space solving the associated risks of pooling water.</p> <p>Evidence: With reference to TMBC Technical Reference Strategy, we can see that the mean benefit perceived by the public for places to walk ranks as fourth most important from the list of topics with a mean benefit score of 4.7 (Chart 1, pg.4) We also see that out of those responses 92.3% of people replied that places to walk are very beneficial. (chart 2, Pg.5) We also see from the following chart (chart 3) that places to walk are the second most used open space. We also see there is a need for disabled access to these open spaces and for places to walk for disabled people to ensure safety. This has been indicated as it rates as the fifth most important improvements for a park (Chart 4 Pg.7).⁸</p> <p>We can also see that from the Population Health Needs, Inequalities and Commissioning Opportunities in West Kent CCG that 20% of premature deaths in the area are caused by circulatory disease (Fig. 32 pg37), increasing to 27% over the age of 65. The ability to provide accessibility to green space throughout the year will provide greater opportunity to the local population to keep fit and healthy and reduce instance of obesity and cardiovascular disease. We also see that in TMBC adults classified as obese or overweight make up 61.9% of the population, again the opportunity that this improvement would provide will have impact.⁹</p> <p>Walking is a simple health behaviour that can reduce rates of chronic disease and ameliorate rising health care costs, with only a modest increase in the number of activity-related injuries. (L-Min Lee, 2008)¹⁰</p> <p>For these reasons the solution to this flooding issue would enable improved access and usability of this green space.</p>		
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4.	Playground extension, replacing and improving existing equipment and purchase additional playground equipment	Westwood & Hildenborough Recreation Ground playgrounds.	<p>The playgrounds as Westwood and The Recreation Ground are coming to the ends of their life. As such the Parish Council would like to renovate both playground areas, updating all equipment to more modern accessible items.</p> <p>There is currently a lack of playground provision for disabled children which the council feel is a necessity. As such any upgrade to the playground equipment will include additional equipment for disabled children. The council would also like to provide more sensory equipment which is currently lacking. The upgrade will also include replacement fencing to a metal fence for sustainability and lengthening of hardware life at The Recreation Ground.</p> <p>Evidence: The British Children’s Play Survey was conducted in April 2020 with a nationally representative sample of 1919 parents/caregivers with a child aged 5–11 years. Respondents completed a range of measures focused on children’s play, independent mobility and adult tolerance of and attitudes towards risk in play. The results show that, averaged across the year, children play for around 3 h per day, with around half of children’s play happening outdoors. Away from home, the most common places for children to play are playgrounds and green spaces. Away from home, children on average spent more time playing at playgrounds than in any other place.¹¹</p> <p>Improving fitness – NHS recommendations are that children between 5 and 18 should do around 60 minutes of moderate or intense physical activity per day. Public playgrounds provide opportunities for children to be active and also to build strength via equipment such as balance beams and overhead bars. Introducing children to physical activity at a young age is important for development, and for understanding the necessity of regularly moving your body, especially when screens and devices have become so dominant. It’s important to ensure that, at an early age, children are active but not focused on fitness in a way that could create challenging beliefs later in life. Playgrounds are the ideal space to help ensure this, as there is plenty of opportunities to run around and burn off energy, without the focus on body expectations and image that might be found in a gym.</p>	Estimated £200,000	
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			<p>Providing a community hub – Where there is a playground in a community, provides a location for people to gather. It's a safe space for children to come and interact with friends, exercise, get creative and explore their imagination. Playgrounds provide a place where parents can connect too, and everyone within the local community can join in and get to know each other more.</p> <p>Children learn through play – There is a huge bank of evidence now that shows just how much children really learn through the kinds of activities they will do in a playground. This will support development in many different ways. For example, play supports cognitive development because when children are playing, building, and interacting with various materials they are also analysing, counting and communicating. Playgrounds are spaces where kids have the freedom to start building friendships and exploring social development. Play can also be vital to emotional development as a playground may generate a whole range of feelings, from excitement to fear, and children can start to get used to regulating these. Creative development is also triggered by playgrounds that are vivid and vibrant and encourage imagination. And, of course, physical development is facilitated by a playground environment focused on building fitness and strength.</p> <p>As such the Parish Council would want to encourage children to engage with the outdoors and feel additional equipment is a major factor in doing this.</p>		
5.	Pond	Westwood	<p>In 2024 the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership renovated the pond in Westwood by removing silt and returning the pond to its natural depth.</p> <p>The Parish Council wish to improve the safety and usability of this natural asset. Improvements would include additional signage, improved lifesaving equipment and the installation of a pond dipping platform.</p> <p>Evidence: The Royal Life Saving Society UK – Westwood Pond Safety Assessment¹² commissioned by the Parish Council sets out the improvements both safety and usability. It indicates that additional signage and lifesaving</p>	Estimated £10,000	

Commented [CW1]: There was also the suggestion of a Pond Dipping station for the pond on the Recreational Ground. I' Can't see that one on the Plan?

Commented [IS2R1]: We can add it, although as mentioned at the meeting we dont own that pond?

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			equipment would improve safety of the pond. It also sets out the possibility of the provision of a pond dipping platform and its benefits for the local community.		
6.	Recreation Ground	Riding Lane, Hildenborough	<p>The free car park in the Recreation Ground has approximately 25 spaces available.</p> <p>It is often full leading to cars parking in Riding Lane which leads to traffic congestion and danger to pedestrians crossing this road. We also have continued issues with security and crime.</p> <p>It is possible to extend the car park for a further 20 spaces as well as providing a second exit/entrance at a safer location. Recently the Parish Council has invested in low level lighting during the hours of dark to improve the security of the area together with improved cctv coverage.</p> <p>Evidence: Lighting improves visibility and decreases concealment in public settings, thus contributing to increased safety. "Improved street lighting is a form of situational crime prevention that involves increasing the levels of illumination on the street or in other public spaces. It is intended to serve many purposes, including accident prevention, marketing and the reduction of crime. Overall, the evidence suggests that the intervention [street lighting] can reduce crime. Across the 13 studies reviewed, both violent and property crime was reduced by an average of 21 per cent in areas with improved street lighting compared to areas without." ¹³</p> <p>(There are currently no electric charging points in the village and this would be a suitable site should the area be safely lit after sunset. "The UK is already a global frontrunner in the shift to electric vehicles. The Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan set out that we will accelerate the transition to electric vehicles, ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030"¹⁴</p> <p>It will therefore become essential for charging points with public access within the village to help further combat the current climate crisis. We also refer directly to TMBC's Climate Change Strategy¹⁵.</p>	<p>Estimate from Marchants £60,000</p> <p>CCTV £5,000</p>	<p>Funding from PC budget, funded low level lighting for current car park and improved cctv.</p> <p>Additional spaces and an additional exit/entrance funded from suitable grants or S106 funding</p>

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			<p>We also see that Road transport constitutes 57% of the total territorial Carbon footprint that amounts to 23,785t CO₂ per annum. (Impactforhildenborough)</p> <p>¹⁶The Parish Council feel improved parking and charging services would contribute to the reduction of this footprint and this is essential in combating the current climate crisis but unfortunately, at this time, it is not possible for the Parish Council to seek funding or provide charging points since it does not have the Power to install them. It would be possible for the Parish Council to lease land for another provider.)</p>		
7.	Goal revision and renovation	Westwood	<p>There is currently a lack of provision for ball sports at Westwood, particularly during the wet and winter months, due to the topography the main area for ball sports becomes excessively wet and as such is totally unsuitable for use.</p> <p>However, a rubberised tarmacked goal area would enable use throughout the year, irrelevant of the weather.</p> <p>Evidence: The World Health Organisation states: Physical activity has significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds Physical activity contributes to preventing and managing noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes Physical activity reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety Physical activity enhances thinking, learning, and judgment skills Physical activity ensures healthy growth and development in young people Physical activity improves overall well-being Globally, 1 in 4 adults do not meet the global recommended levels of physical activity People who are insufficiently active have a 20% to 30% increased risk of death compared to people who are sufficiently active More than 80% of the world's adolescent population is insufficiently physically active¹⁷</p>	Estimated £40,000	PC funding/S106 or grants

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			It is therefore clear that any improvement to the sporting facilities would be beneficial for public health within the village. Particularly for our young people.		
8.	Pump Cycle Track	West Wood	<p>The existing pump cycle track is ageing and requires renovation and extension to be more valuable to the local community. The Parish Council plans to extend and resurface with tarmac to improve user experience.</p> <p>Evidence: The current pump cycle track has been in place since 2012 with some small renovations to the surface but no major works or maintenance undertaken.</p> <p>Positive effects from sports are achieved primarily through physical activity, but secondary effects bring health benefits such as psychosocial and personal development. Because physical activity is increasingly conducted in an organized manner, sport's role in society has become increasingly important over the years, not only for the individual but also for public health.¹⁸ As such the provision of a suitable opportunities for physical activity would have a direct impact on the health of the users.</p> <p>The pump cycle track is currently most used by younger members of the Hildenborough community and the Parish Council wish to continue to provide suitable activities to engage with local youth.</p>	Estimated £50,000	PC funding/S106 or grants
9.	Orchard Area and Bee-friendly designated pollination area	West Wood	<p>Due to the removal of a large number of Ash trees due to them falling prey to ash die back. There is an area of woodland running alongside the B245 which now requires replanting. The Parish Council feel that it is a suitable place for the planting of a fruit Orchard, a traditional part of Kentish life. Specifically, the planting of apple, pear and cherry trees as these are native to the Kent area. Additionally, part of this area would be designated as a bee-friendly pollination zone. This would both benefit the Orchard but also the surrounding environment producing a net biodiversity gain.</p> <p>Evidence:</p>	Estimated £30,000	PC funding/S106 or grants

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			<p>The provision of Orchards is recommended by the Government for increasing net biodiversity. The government has laid out the benefits of creating traditional Orchards but specifically they “This option has been identified as being beneficial for biodiversity. All Countryside Stewardship habitat creation, restoration and management options are of great significance for biodiversity recovery, as are the wide range of arable options in the scheme. Capital items and supplements can support this habitat work depending on the holding’s situation and potential.</p> <p>The connectivity of habitats is also very important and habitat options should be linked wherever possible. Better connectivity will allow wildlife to move/colonise freely to access water, food, shelter and breeding habitat, and will allow natural communities of both animals and plants to adapt in response to environmental and climate change.”¹⁹</p> <p>Additionally, DEFRA have laid out the benefits of Bees and other pollinators in their Review of policy document. Specifically, it lays out the importance of pollinators and bees for the maintenance of plant genetic biodiversity. “Bees have great intrinsic value to people across the UK and were widely regarded as a key symbol of the natural world by respondents in a survey of attitudes towards nature conducted by Defra (2011). Pollination by insects is thought to be the main reproductive mechanism in 78% of temperate flowering plants and is essential to maintaining plant genetic diversity. Insect-pollinated plants and their fruits or seeds are also important to non-market benefits such as landscape, wider biodiversity, providing food, shelter and other resources to mammals, birds and other insects. On a longer timescale, pollination can also affect the spread of rare habitats such as heathland which has unique biodiversity, cultural and economic value itself.”²⁰</p>		
10.	Wetland Area	Recreation Ground	At the north end of The Recreation Ground there is an area of Grassland which becomes waterlogged and boggy for much of the year. This makes the area inaccessible. As The Parish Council are committed to biodiversity gain across its open spaces, the creation of a wetland area would help with this goal and make a previously unusable area beneficial for the locality, ecology and biodiversity. Additionally, the pooling of water on this part of field can	Estimated £30,000	PC funding/S106 or grants

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			<p>lead to surface water flooding of the Tennis courts and the nearby highway. The creation of the wetland area could also provide flood mitigation measures.</p> <p>Evidence: Biodiversity gain is a goal of The Parish Council. In Cromhall a Wetland was constructed which resulted in 111% increase in biodiversity value and the reduction of more than 95% of microplastics on the site. ²¹</p> <p>Additionally, wetland creation has proved to increase flood mitigation, absorbing water and slowly releasing it which has reduced in downstream flood peaks. ²²</p> <p>Wetland creation has also proved to deliver £9 benefit for every £1 spent. ²³</p>		
11.	Upgraded fitness equipment	Recreation Ground	<p>The existing fitness equipment at The Recreation Ground is starting to come to the end of its useful life. The Parish Council wish to renew the equipment but also upgrade some items to more engaging items.</p> <p>Evidence: Studies show that parks provide people with the opportunity to participate in physical activity and encourage social interactions. As outdoor gym equipment provides users with the opportunity to improve cardiorespiratory fitness and muscle strength, the installation of gym equipment in parks could have the potential to assist in redressing low rates of physical activity. ²⁴</p> <p>Specifically, studies have shown that outdoor gym equipment can be particularly beneficial for older members of the community, improving cardiovascular health and increasing social interaction. This is particularly important within the UK's ageing society. ^{25 26}</p> <p>Additionally, the provision of outdoor fitness equipment provides an opportunity for those unable to afford a gym membership to exercise.</p>	Estimated £60,000	PC funding/S106 or grants

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12.	Electrical Re-wiring and upgrade	Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane	<p>Hildenborough Village Hall currently provides an excellent asset for the village. It is currently used by a very wide range of users and has a huge beneficial impact of the village.</p> <p>The electrical system in the hall is adequate but outdated and in need of modernising to ensure the hall continues to provide a community hub for the village.</p> <p>Evidence: Village and community halls in England offer extensive economic and social benefits to rural communities. Just before lockdown 2,109 halls took part in the National Village Halls Survey 2020 which provides a detailed snapshot of the operations and management of community buildings across the country.</p> <p>The survey found that village halls make a significant contribution to the economy.</p> <p>An estimated 50,000 people were identified as earning a living connected to the use of these community buildings, from Pilates and Yoga teachers to people running dog training classes. A further 4,500 people are employed as cleaners, caretakers and managers.</p> <p>Village halls also offer extensive social and cultural benefits, ACRE’s research found.</p> <p>Those living in rural areas are at heightened risk of social isolation, which can lead to poor health, loss of independence and lower quality of life, according to the Local Government Association.</p> <p>This makes the work of village halls particularly important. An astonishing 60% of respondents stated that their halls are the only meeting place for their community, with activities such as coffee mornings and luncheon clubs helping to address loneliness among vulnerable groups.²⁷</p>	Quoted £40,000	PC funding/S106
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			As such it is vital that the village hall electrical system is modernised to ensure the continuation of the wonderful community space that is provided.		
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Table Three

Priority Level	Name and type of open space	Location	Identified need and evidence base	Cost estimate (£)	Funding source	Action/Programme/Comments /Who/When
Funding Agreed Via S106						
1.	Play equipment for disabled children	Recreation Ground/West Wood	The installation Play equipment for disabled children in West Wood and the Recreation Ground play areas	£30,000	Berkeley S106	P.C. to seek desirable equipment from disabled children/parents when funding becomes available Quotations to be obtained from recognised and trusted play equipment suppliers
2.	Perimeter footpath	Recreation Ground	A footpath to give access to all, particularly during the winter months when the field becomes waterlogged	£50,000	Berkeley S106	Original quotation per linear meter from Landscape Services. To be out for quotations once S106 funding available

Evidence

Reference	Project Location	Evidence
1.	Replacement Pavilion	Evidence:

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	<p>Hildenborough Recreation Ground, Riding Lane</p>	<p>The current pavilion was built as little more than a wooden hut and neither its means of construction or its layout are fit for purpose today. The current building comprises a kitchen, toilets, pavilion room and store rooms. It is of a very poor construction. After many years of repairs and patching up it is no longer economically viable for further refurbishment.</p> <p>The old pavilion is at the end of its useful life, but it is very important that the village has a new sports pavilion in order to support this active and thriving community. Hildenborough is alive and flourishing and we need to look ahead to being able to meet the needs of a growing population and encouraging new regular users with improved facilities.</p> <p>A new up to date pavilion would benefit the community hugely. It would provide a community hub for a wide range of uses; sporting but also community based events.</p> <p>Community hubs help build more cohesive and resilient communities which provide community led regeneration.²⁸ As the population of Hildenborough continues to increase with new building projects. The importance of promoting community cohesion becomes increasingly obvious.</p> <p>It is also clear that the provision of sports venues is beneficial to every layer of a community, from old to young. Positive effects from sports are achieved primarily through physical activity, but secondary effects bring health benefits such as psychosocial and personal development. Because physical activity is increasingly conducted in an organized manner, sport's role in society has become increasingly important over the years, not only for the individual but also for public health.²⁹ As such the provision of a suitable sporting venue would have a direct impact on the health of the users.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>West Wood – natural woodland Hildenborough bounded by Tonbridge, Leigh and Stocks Green Roads</p>	<p>Parts of the footpaths within the woodland area become very wet and boggy during wet weather resulting in restricted use by walkers. A reinforced path with wooden platform covered in wire to avoid slippage whilst walking would encourage year-round exercise for all. In addition a nature trail and footpath signage would enhance the possible activities and extend the use of this valuable woodland environment.</p> <p>Evidence: With reference to TMBC Technical Reference Strategy, we can see that the mean benefit perceived by the public for places to walk ranks as fourth most important from the list of topics with a mean benefit score of 4.7 (Chart 1, pg.4) We also see that out of those responses 92.3% of people replied that places to walk are very beneficial. (chart 2, Pg.5) We also see from the following chart (chart 3) that places to walk are the second most used open space. We</p>

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		<p>also see there is a need for disabled access to these open spaces and for places to walk for disabled people to ensure safety. This has been indicated as it rates as the fifth most important improvements for a park (Chart 4 Pg.7).³⁰</p> <p>We can also see that from the Population Health Needs, Inequalities and Commissioning Opportunities in West Kent CCG that 20% of premature deaths in the area are caused by circulatory disease (Fig. 32 pg37), increasing to 27% over the age of 65. The ability to provide accessibility to green space throughout the year will provide greater opportunity to the local population to keep fit and healthy and reduce instance of obesity and cardiovascular disease. We also see that in TMBC adults classified as obese or overweight make up 61.9% of the population, again the opportunity that this improvement would provide will have impact.³¹</p> <p>Walking is a simple health behaviour that can reduce rates of chronic disease and ameliorate rising health care costs, with only a modest increase in the number of activity-related injuries. (L-Min Lee, 2008)³²</p> <p>Forest Research suggest; Good woodland and greenspace design and interpretation can help make people feel welcome and reduce the perception of threats in an unfamiliar environment. A wider range and diversity of individuals and groups should be included and incorporated. (Gov, n.d.). They also suggest; contributing to a new woodland/greenspace culture by thinking more widely than public access normally enjoyed by only certain groups of people undertaking traditional recreational activities - by promoting access at different levels and incorporating a wider range of cultural traditions, including those enjoyed by minority groups.³³</p> <p>For these reasons, West wood would benefit from an all-weather foot path encouraging and enabling disabled residents using wheel chairs and residents of all ages to be able to access the green woodland, encouraging health and wellbeing. We also feel that improving the interest of the woodland would make it more attractive to visitors and residence and encourage more usage. Particularly the addition of a nature trail would encourage children to use the woodland and benefit from it.</p> <p>This project is in the early stages of development (May 2023). A feasibility study has been undertaken for an accessible to all footpath with a design currently in the development stage.</p> <p>We are very keen to ensure disabled access to as much of the Parish Council's public space to ensure those with disabilities are able to enjoy the sites.</p>
3.	Drainage Improvements	<p>Evidence: With reference to TMBC Technical Reference Strategy, we can see that the mean benefit perceived by the public for places to walk ranks as fourth most important from the list of topics with a mean benefit score of 4.7 (Chart 1, pg.4)</p>

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		<p>We also see that out of those responses 92.3% of people replied that places to walk are very beneficial. (chart 2, Pg.5) We also see from the following chart (chart 3) that places to walk are the second most used open space. We also see there is a need for disabled access to these open spaces and for places to walk for disabled people to ensure safety. This has been indicated as it rates as the fifth most important improvements for a park (Chart 4 Pg.7).³⁴</p> <p>We can also see that from the Population Health Needs, Inequalities and Commissioning Opportunities in West Kent CCG that 20% of premature deaths in the area are caused by circulatory disease (Fig. 32 pg37), increasing to 27% over the age of 65. The ability to provide accessibility to green space throughout the year will provide greater opportunity to the local population to keep fit and healthy and reduce instance of obesity and cardiovascular disease. We also see that in TMBC adults classified as obese or overweight make up 61.9% of the population, again the opportunity that this improvement would provide will have impact.³⁵</p> <p>Walking is a simple health behaviour that can reduce rates of chronic disease and ameliorate rising health care costs, with only a modest increase in the number of activity-related injuries. (L-Min Lee, 2008)³⁶</p> <p>For these reasons the solution to this flooding issue would enable improved access and usability of this green space.</p>
4.	Playground extension, replacing and improving existing equipment and purchase additional playground equipment Westwood & Hildenborough Recreation Ground playgrounds.	<p>Evidence:</p> <p>The British Children’s Play Survey was conducted in April 2020 with a nationally representative sample of 1919 parents/caregivers with a child aged 5–11 years. Respondents completed a range of measures focused on children’s play, independent mobility and adult tolerance of and attitudes towards risk in play. The results show that, averaged across the year, children play for around 3 h per day, with around half of children’s play happening outdoors. Away from home, the most common places for children to play are playgrounds and green spaces. Away from home, children on average spent more time playing at playgrounds than in any other place.³⁷</p> <p>Improving fitness – NHS recommendations are that children between 5 and 18 should do around 60 minutes of moderate or intense physical activity per day. Public playgrounds provide opportunities for children to be active and also to build strength via equipment such as balance beams and overhead bars. Introducing children to physical activity at a young age is important for development, and for understanding the necessity of regularly moving your body, especially when screens and devices have become so dominant. It’s important to ensure that, at an early age, children are active but not focused on fitness in a way that could create challenging beliefs later in life. Playgrounds are the ideal space to help ensure this, as there is plenty of opportunities to run around and burn off energy, without the focus on body expectations and image that might be found in a gym.</p>

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		<p>Providing a community hub – Where there is a playground in a community, provides a location for people to gather. It’s a safe space for children to come and interact with friends, exercise, get creative and explore their imagination. Playgrounds provide a place where parents can connect too, and everyone within the local community can join in and get to know each other more.</p> <p>Children learn through play – There is a huge bank of evidence now that shows just how much children really learn through the kinds of activities they will do in a playground. This will support development in many different ways. For example, play supports cognitive development because when children are playing, building, and interacting with various materials they are also analysing, counting and communicating. Playgrounds are spaces where kids have the freedom to start building friendships and exploring social development. Play can also be vital to emotional development as a playground may generate a whole range of feelings, from excitement to fear, and children can start to get used to regulating these. Creative development is also triggered by playgrounds that are vivid and vibrant and encourage imagination. And, of course, physical development is facilitated by a playground environment focused on building fitness and strength.</p> <p>As such the Parish Council would want to encourage children to engage with the outdoors and feel additional equipment is a major factor in doing this.</p>
5.	Pond Westwood	<p>Evidence: The Royal Life Saving Society UK – Westwood Pond Safety Assessment³⁸ commissioned by the Parish Council sets out the improvements both safety and usability. It indicates that additional signage and lifesaving equipment would improve safety of the pond. It also sets out the possibility of the provision of a pond dipping platform and its benefits for the local community.</p>
6.	Recreation Ground Riding Lane, Hildenborough	<p>Evidence: Lighting improves visibility and decreases concealment in public settings, thus contributing to increased safety. “Improved street lighting is a form of situational crime prevention that involves increasing the levels of illumination on the street or in other public spaces. It is intended to serve many purposes, including accident prevention, marketing and the reduction of crime. Overall, the evidence suggests that the intervention [street lighting] can reduce crime. Across the 13 studies reviewed, both violent and property crime was reduced by an average of 21 per cent in areas with improved street lighting compared to areas without.”³⁹</p> <p>(There are currently no electric charging points in the village and this would be a suitable site should the area be safely lit after sunset. “The UK is already a global frontrunner in the shift to electric vehicles. The Prime Minister’s Ten Point Plan set out that we will accelerate the transition to electric vehicles, ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030”⁴⁰</p>

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		<p>It will therefore become essential for charging points with public access within the village to help further combat the current climate crisis. We also refer directly to TMBC’s Climate Change Strategy⁴¹.</p> <p>We also see that Road transport constitutes 57% of the total territorial Carbon footprint that amounts to 23,785t CO₂ per annum. (Impactforhildenborough) ⁴²The Parish Council feel improved parking and charging services would contribute to the reduction of this footprint and this is essential in combating the current climate crisis but unfortunately, at this time, it is not possible for the Parish Council to seek funding or provide charging points since it does not have the Power to install them. It would be possible for the Parish Council to lease land for another provider.)</p>
7.	Goal revision and renovation Westwood	<p>Evidence: The World Health Organisation states: Physical activity has significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds Physical activity contributes to preventing and managing noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes Physical activity reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety Physical activity enhances thinking, learning, and judgment skills Physical activity ensures healthy growth and development in young people Physical activity improves overall well-being Globally, 1 in 4 adults do not meet the global recommended levels of physical activity People who are insufficiently active have a 20% to 30% increased risk of death compared to people who are sufficiently active More than 80% of the world's adolescent population is insufficiently physically active⁴³</p> <p>It is therefore clear that any improvement to the sporting facilities would be beneficial for public health within the village. Particularly for our young people.</p>
8.	Pump Cycle Track	<p>Evidence: The current pump cycle track has been in place since 2012 with some small renovations to the surface but no major works or maintenance undertaken.</p> <p>Positive effects from sports are achieved primarily through physical activity, but secondary effects bring health benefits such as psychosocial and personal development. Because physical activity is increasingly conducted in an organized manner, sport’s role in society has become increasingly important over the years, not only for the individual but also for public health.⁴⁴ As such the provision of a suitable opportunities for physical activity would have a direct impact on the health of the users.</p>

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		The pump cycle track is currently most used by younger members of the Hildenborough community and the Parish Council wish to continue to provide suitable activities to engage with local youth.
9.	Orchard Area and Bee-friendly designated pollination area – West Wood	<p>Evidence: The provision of Orchards is recommended by the Government for increasing net biodiversity. The government has laid out the benefits of creating traditional Orchards but specifically they “This option has been identified as being beneficial for biodiversity. All Countryside Stewardship habitat creation, restoration and management options are of great significance for biodiversity recovery, as are the wide range of arable options in the scheme. Capital items and supplements can support this habitat work depending on the holding’s situation and potential. The connectivity of habitats is also very important and habitat options should be linked wherever possible. Better connectivity will allow wildlife to move/colonise freely to access water, food, shelter and breeding habitat, and will allow natural communities of both animals and plants to adapt in response to environmental and climate change.”⁴⁵</p> <p>Additionally, DEFRA have laid out the benefits of Bees and other pollinators in their Review of policy document. Specifically, it lays out the importance of pollinators and bees for the maintenance of plant genetic biodiversity. “Bees have great intrinsic value to people across the UK and were widely regarded as a key symbol of the natural world by respondents in a survey of attitudes towards nature conducted by Defra (2011). Pollination by insects is thought to be the main reproductive mechanism in 78% of temperate flowering plants and is essential to maintaining plant genetic diversity. Insect-pollinated plants and their fruits or seeds are also important to non-market benefits such as landscape, wider biodiversity, providing food, shelter and other resources to mammals, birds and other insects. On a longer timescale, pollination can also affect the spread of rare habitats such as heathland which has unique biodiversity, cultural and economic value itself.”⁴⁶</p>
10.	Wetland Area – The Recreation Ground	<p>Evidence: Biodiversity gain is a goal of The Parish Council. In Cromhall a Wetland was constructed which resulted in 111% increase in biodiversity value and the reduction of more than 95% of microplastics on the site. ⁴⁷</p> <p>Additionally, wetland creation has proved to increase flood mitigation, absorbing water and slowly releasing it which has reduced in downstream flood peaks. ⁴⁸</p> <p>Wetland creation has also proved to deliver £9 benefit for every £1 spent. ⁴⁹</p>

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11.	Upgraded fitness equipment	<p>Evidence: Studies show that parks provide people with the opportunity to participate in physical activity and encourage social interactions. As outdoor gym equipment provides users with the opportunity to improve cardiorespiratory fitness and muscle strength, the installation of gym equipment in parks could have the potential to assist in redressing low rates of physical activity.⁵⁰</p> <p>Specifically, studies have shown that outdoor gym equipment can be particularly beneficial for older members of the community, improving cardiovascular health and increasing social interaction. This is particularly important within the UK's ageing society.^{51 52}</p> <p>Additionally, the provision of outdoor fitness equipment provides an opportunity for those unable to afford a gym membership to exercise.</p>
12.	Electrical Re-wiring and upgrade Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane	<p>Evidence: Village and community halls in England offer extensive economic and social benefits to rural communities. Just before lockdown 2,109 halls took part in the National Village Halls Survey 2020 which provides a detailed snapshot of the operations and management of community buildings across the country.</p> <p>The survey found that village halls make a significant contribution to the economy.</p> <p>An estimated 50,000 people were identified as earning a living connected to the use of these community buildings, from Pilates and Yoga teachers to people running dog training classes. A further 4,500 people are employed as cleaners, caretakers and managers.</p> <p>Village halls also offer extensive social and cultural benefits, ACRE's research found.</p> <p>Those living in rural areas are at heightened risk of social isolation, which can lead to poor health, loss of independence and lower quality of life, according to the Local Government Association.</p> <p>This makes the work of village halls particularly important. An astonishing 60% of respondents stated that their halls are the only meeting place for their community, with activities such as coffee mornings and luncheon clubs helping to address loneliness among vulnerable groups.⁵³</p>

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		As such it is vital that the village hall electrical system is modernised to ensure the continuation of the wonderful community space that is provided.
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¹ <https://mycommunity.org.uk/what-are-community-hubs>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6572041/>

³ See TMBC Technical Reference Strategy

⁴ https://www.kpho.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/93080/West-Kent-Needs-Assessment-compressed.pdf

⁵ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18562968/>

⁶ <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/urban-regeneration-and-greenspace-partnership/greenspace-in-practice/benefits-of-greenspace/access-and-availability/#:~:text=Good%20woodland%20and%20greenspace%20design,of%20greenspace%20users%20and%20visitors>

⁷ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-benefits-of-woodland-creation-woods-for-nature/the-benefits-of-woodland-creation-woods-for-nature?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁸ See TMBC Technical Reference Strategy

⁹ https://www.kpho.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/93080/West-Kent-Needs-Assessment-compressed.pdf

¹⁰ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18562968/>

¹¹ https://www.api-play.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/04/ijerph-18-04334.pdf?_ga=2.77581845.1864946887.1689111866-1786279140.1689111865

¹² [West Wood Pond Assessment Reportv1.1](#)

¹³ College of Policing Review into Street Lighting (n.d). Retrieved from <https://whatworks.college.police.uk/toolkit/pages/Intervention.aspx?InterventionID=3>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-powers-up-electric-vehicle-revolution-with-20-million-chargepoints-boost>

¹⁵ <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/downloads/file/1793/tmbc-climate-change-strategy>

¹⁶ <https://impact-tool.org.uk/footprint/footprint?parishId=E04005098&footprintType=territorial&scale=absolute>

¹⁷ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/physical-activity>

¹⁸ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6572041/>

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/creation-of-traditional-orchards-be5#traditional-orchards>

²⁰ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c620ae5274a7ee2567180/pb13981-bees-pollinators-review.pdf>

²¹ https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/news/cromhall-research-reveals-environmental-benefits-of-wetlands?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²² https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²³ https://www.wwt.org.uk/news-and-stories/news/strategic-wetland-restoration-could-unlock-billions-in-benefits-for-people-and-nature?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²⁴ https://www.publish.csiro.au/HE/fulltext/HE14038?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²⁵ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37611645/>

²⁶ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26699448/>

²⁷ <https://acre.org.uk/extent-of-rural-economic-and-social-benefits-from-village-and-community-halls-revealed/>

²⁸ <https://mycommunity.org.uk/what-are-community-hubs>

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²⁹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6572041/>

³⁰ See TMBC Technical Reference Strategy

³¹ https://www.kpho.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/93080/West-Kent-Needs-Assessment-compressed.pdf

³² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18562968/>

³³ <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/urban-regeneration-and-greenspace-partnership/greenspace-in-practice/benefits-of-greenspace/access-and-availability/#:~:text=Good%20woodland%20and%20greenspace%20design,of%20greenspace%20users%20and%20visitors>

³⁴ See TMBC Technical Reference Strategy

³⁵ https://www.kpho.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/93080/West-Kent-Needs-Assessment-compressed.pdf

³⁶ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18562968/>

³⁷ https://www.api-play.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/04/ijerph-18-04334.pdf?_ga=2.77581845.1864946887.1689111866-1786279140.1689111865

³⁸ [West Wood Pond Assessment Reportv1.1](#)

³⁹ College of Policing Review into Street Lighting (n.d). Retrieved from <https://whatworks.college.police.uk/toolkit/pages/Intervention.aspx?InterventionID=3>

⁴⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-powers-up-electric-vehicle-revolution-with-20-million-chargepoints-boost>

⁴¹ <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/downloads/file/1793/tmbc-climate-change-strategy>

⁴² <https://impact-tool.org.uk/footprint/footprint?parishId=E04005098&footprintType=territorial&scale=absolute>

⁴³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/physical-activity>

⁴⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6572041/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/creation-of-traditional-orchards-be5#traditional-orchards>

⁴⁶ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c620ae5274a7ee2567180/pb13981-bees-pollinators-review.pdf>

⁴⁷ https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/news/cromhall-research-reveals-environmental-benefits-of-wetlands?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁴⁸ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁴⁹ https://www.wwt.org.uk/news-and-stories/news/strategic-wetland-restoration-could-unlock-billions-in-benefits-for-people-and-nature?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁵⁰ https://www.publish.csiro.au/HE/fulltext/HE14038?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁵¹ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37611645/>

⁵² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26699448/>

⁵³ <https://acre.org.uk/extent-of-rural-economic-and-social-benefits-from-village-and-community-halls-revealed/>