

Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031

Appendix 3

Village Facilities

Pre-submission consultation

Consultation period:

7th May 2019 – 21st June 2019



Appleton Community Shop was mentioned as a strength of the community by 58% of respondents to the scoping survey.

There has been at least one shop in the village for over 100 years. When the current shop was under threat of closure in 1999, the village bought the shop and now run it as a community-led 'not for profit' shop serving the local community, led by a board of directors and currently staffed with approximately 90 volunteers. The shop includes a Post Office service. Both the shop and Post Office are extremely important amenities to the village, particularly to the young and elderly population for whom transport to shops outside the parish is difficult to access (worsened by the recent loss of all bus services thorough the village). It sources local produce, providing a small income for people in the village. For example, people bake cakes and make sandwiches that sell in the shop. It is a community shop 'run by the community for the community'.



Appleton Community shop also fulfils a very important function as a social hub, and now has a small coffee bar where people can meet and chat. The shop is a good point of social contact, especially for members of the community who live alone. People in the shop keep an eye on regular customers who have dementia to ensure they are alright.

The turnover of the shop is roughly £225,000 per annum.

Appleton Primary School

The village school is a Church of England aided school. There are currently 190 pupils on the roll from the catchment area and nearby and the school received an Outstanding award from the most recent Ofsted report which conducted in February 2019. The school building is also used for village events and clubs, such as Gardening Club, Cubs and Brownies.

Appleton village Pre-School

The pre-school (formerly Playgroup) has had its home in the Village Hall since 1968. It is a non-profit making registered charity. It has been awarded a 'good' grading in its most recent Ofsted report in 2017. All staff are fully qualified. 26 children between the ages of 2 years 9 months, and 5 years can be accommodated at any one session.

Appleton Village Hall

This is a well-appointed venue with all facilities including a kitchen and a licensed bar. It is used regularly for events, meetings, clubs and classes. Regular events include the pre-school (4 days a week since 1968), parent/carer and toddler group, yoga, Zumba, ladies a capella chorus, Beavers (all weekly), OX13 youth club (two-weekly), WI and the Evergreen club for senior villagers (monthly).



A defibrillator machine is mounted on an outside wall.

St Laurence Church

The Grade 2 listed 12th Century Norman Church has been at the centre of village life for nearly 1000 years.

The church holds at least one service every Sunday, and has a morning prayer service on Thursdays. Sunday Club operates for children aged 4-10.

Regular events are also held at the church. There is a 'Tea and Chat' meeting every Monday, and a Women's breakfast meeting every 2 months with guest speakers. Concerts are also held at the church from time to time.

The 1552 Inventories show Appleton Church Tower as containing "three bells and a sance belle". In 1817, these bells were replaced with a ring of six bells given by the then Lord of the Manor, Robert Southby. The ring was dedicated on 4th March 1818 and the 200th anniversary was celebrated on 4th March 2018. The Tower now holds 10 bells which are rung regularly by a team of dedicated ringers.

Appleton Chapel

The chapel was built in 1835. Apart from a short closure in 1972-3, regular services have been held there to the present day. It has at times held a youth club and Sunday school as well.

Appleton Sportsfield

The Appleton Sportsfield is owned by the Appleton with Eaton Parish Council and is for use by all in the Parish. It is managed by the Leisure & Recreation committee of the Parish

Council, assisted by volunteers who carry out the day to day management of the facility. The Pavilion, with a kitchen, two changing rooms and a substantial hall, meets all the current health and safety regulations and the facility – the grounds and the pavilion – is available for hire. Football and cricket are played at the Sportsfield and there is a good quality cricket square and full-sized and junior football pitches.

Appleton with Eaton Tennis club

This was founded in 1985 and now has two dedicated dry-surface courts, a practice wall and small clubhouse, and lighting to allow for evening play. It is extensively used by the village, both adults and children and others. Members are from a wide area. There is coaching for both adults and children, and the current membership is 60 adult members, 43 family members and 22 juniors.

Jubilee Park playground

The playground was developed through voluntary efforts supported by WREN and PlayBuilder funding and opened in 2010. It provides a wide variety of activities (swings, zip-wire, etc.) for children and fitness equipment for adults. There is also outdoor table tennis and a large picnic table for families to get together.

It has recently been used for Appleton Friday night market, which is a social get together with food and drink.

Allotments

There are two sets of allotments within the parish. The Netherton Road site has 37 plots and the Eaton site has 20. The land is all owned by St. John's College and is managed on their behalf by Savills, whose local representative deals with the letting of plots and annual rent collection.

It is thought that the allotments were created in the early part of the last century. Over time they have fallen into neglect, but there has been a strong resurgence of interest in the last 20 years. Both sets of allotments are now fully let apart from an area on the Eaton site which is too wet to cultivate owing to poor drainage.

The Plough Inn, Appleton

The Plough is the last remaining pub of three in Appleton and is therefore a much-valued amenity. The former Three Horseshoes and Thatched Tavern became private houses in 1993 and 2010 respectively. There is nowhere else in the village for people to meet in an informal social environment. It is the only location in the village where formal events, for example funeral teas, can be held.

More formal groups also meet in the pub. The Besselsleigh Woods group holds regular meetings, local choirs meet monthly for an informal sing song, the crib team meets weekly and the church bellringers meet in the pub after every practice. Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project uses the pub as a base during "dig" weekends. It is host to regular community shop volunteer events and committee meetings for groups such as the Friends of Appleton School.

The Plough Garden is host to organised village events and is a popular venue for larger groups (for example the Tennis Club) to host barbecues and other events during warmer months.

The Plough has been designated an Asset of Community Value.

The Eight Bells, Eaton

The Eight Bells is a traditional village pub offering pub meals and has latterly opened a very successful and popular Thai restaurant. It has an Aunt Sally team which plays every week during the summer.

Besselsleigh Road ends at the River Thames and in warmer months, the garden is filled with regulars and visitors enjoying meals and drinks in the sunshine in a quiet village setting. The landlord organises a beer and music festival every year in June.

In October 2017, the Eight Bells was designated an Asset of Community Value.