

6 Education and Community Services

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6 Education and Community Services

6.1 EDUCATION

- 6.1.1 Education facilities throughout the Borough are either provided by Norfolk County Council which is responsible for Locally Maintained Schools (LMS) at First, Middle or High School levels or by independent Grant Maintained Schools (GMS). Additionally, the Roman Catholic Diocesan Board provides Primary School education facilities (5-11 years old) at St Mary's R.C. School East Anglian Way, Gorleston. Facilities to meet the special teaching needs of children are also provided in the Borough together with a Sixth Form College at Gorleston and the College of Further Education on Suffolk Road in Southtown.

Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Education Property Review

- 6.1.2 During mid-1993 the Borough Council and Norfolk County Council jointly undertook an Education Property Review which examined the existing and future education and educational property needs of the Borough. The review concluded that -
- St Nicholas Middle School, be transferred to the vacant Hospital School building and the present St Nicholas School premises be adapted for other educational or County Council accommodation needs, including the possible relocation of the Child Study Centre from the site of the existing Stradbroke First School.
 - The existing Child Study premises be remodelled as a replacement for Stradbroke First School, retaining the school in its present location.
 - The former Claydon High School site is not required for future educational use. Planning permission has been granted in principle for residential development on the northern section of the school's playing field subject to an agreement being concluded for the transfer of land to the Borough Council for an amenity space/park. The future of the Claydon School buildings and the remainder of its playing field has not yet been determined.

New School Sites

- 6.1.3 **POLICY EDC1 WHERE PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT CREATE A DIRECT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION PROVISION WHICH CANNOT BE MET BY EXISTING FACILITIES DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND WHICH WOULD CREATE THE NEED FOR EXTENSIONS AND/OR ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING SCHOOLS OR THE PROVISION OF NEW SCHOOLS THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK A CONTRIBUTION PROPORTIONATELY TOWARDS THE COST OF THE IMPROVEMENT, OR THE NEW SCHOOL"**

(Objective: To ensure appropriate facilities are provided to meet the education needs as a direct consequence of a development).

Caister

- 6.1.4 Caister is served by existing First, Middle and High Schools. In anticipation of major residential development in the village during the mid-1980s the education authority expressed the view that it did not want to extend the existing First School but proposed to opt for an additional school. This school, which would contain about 140 places,

was to be located on the playing field adjacent to the John Grant Special School off St Nicholas Drive.

- 6.1.5 Although the education authority has the option of developing the St Nicholas Drive site for a first school no firm building proposals have been put forward to date. However, it is important that the site is safeguarded for education purposes should it be required in future.

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- 6.1.6 POLICY EDC2 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SAFEGUARD A SITE ON THE EXISTING PLAYING FIELD OFF ST NICHOLAS DRIVE, CAISTER FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES ON BEHALF OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SITE WILL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR ANY FUTURE EDUCATION OR COMMUNITY NEED.**

(Objective: To safeguard the playing field adjacent to the John Grant School for education/education related purposes.)

Outside the Main Urban Area

- 6.1.7 No other needs for new schools have been identified elsewhere in the Borough but the Education Authority will keep the position under review.

Redundant School Sites

- 6.1.8 Several former school sites currently exist within the Borough. These are:-
- (a) The former, private, Scratby Hall School, Scratby.
 - (b) The former Claydon High School, Gorleston where the future of the school buildings and the remainder of the school playing field has yet to be determined.
 - (c) There is a need to ensure that any vacant school sites are left tidy and secured against unauthorised access.
- 6.1.9 The Borough Council is sympathetic to the need to provide alternative uses for redundant schools. However, school sites add to local amenity in the sense that they provide a “green lung” of open space within built-up areas and contribute positively to the character of the area, as detailed in Chapter 10 - Sport and Recreation. The Council also needs to be convinced that there is not a longer term need for the school buildings and its grounds for education or community purposes if an alternative use is to be considered.

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- 6.1.10 POLICY EDC3 PROPOSALS TO REDEVELOP OR CHANGE THE USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS OR THEIR GROUNDS WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED IF THE APPLICANT CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT:-**

- (a) **THE BUILDINGS AND/OR GROUNDS ARE SURPLUS TO EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (EITHER WHOLLY OR IN PART);**
- (b) **THE PROPOSAL WILL NOT PREJUDICE THE LONG TERM FUTURE USE OF THE SCHOOL OR SITE FOR FUTURE EDUCATION PURPOSES;**
- (c) **THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND/OR GROUNDS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR A COMMUNITY USE; AND**
- (d) **ACCESS, SERVICING AND AMENITY REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET.**

(Objective: To ensure that the educational, social and recreational requirements of local communities are met.)

Dual Use of Educational Facilities

- 6.1.11 School buildings and grounds offer considerable opportunities for community use outside school hours. Community facilities such as meeting halls and indoor recreation areas are expensive to provide and maintain. Therefore, it is important that, where there is a requirement for additional education and/or community facilities, opportunities for joint provision or dual use are investigated (also see paragraph 10.5.1.).
- 6.1.12 The Borough Council in conjunction with the County Council Education Authority and school governors will encourage the joint provision of community facilities on school sites and seek to maximise the dual use of school buildings and playing fields outside school hours.
- 6.1.13 In appropriate circumstances and where necessary approvals for development, where the application is determined by the Borough Council, may be conditioned to ensure community use.

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- 6.1.14 POLICY EDC4 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL FAVOURABLY CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE JOINT PROVISION OF COMMUNITY/EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ON LAND IN EDUCATIONAL USE.**

(Objective: To achieve a higher standard of provision for school and community use.)

6.2 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- 6.2.1 Both within the urban area and in many of the rural settlements of the Borough there is a need for more community facilities. These may be in the form of community/village halls, places of worship or public entertainment facilities.
- 6.2.2 The Plan does not make specific provision for new facilities except where they are required at Bradwell and Caister to satisfy existing shortfalls in provision and/or as a consequence of new development. However, it is likely that proposals to extend or upgrade the existing range of community facilities will occur elsewhere and they could be considered on their individual merits. In granting permission, conditions may be imposed limiting hours of use.

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- 6.2.3 POLICY EDC5 THE COUNCIL WILL PERMIT NEW RECREATIONAL/COMMUNITY HALLS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP:**

- i) THE MILL ROAD PLAYING FIELD, BRADWELL;
- ii) PRIMROSE WAY, BRADWELL; AND
- ii) THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD, CAISTER

ELSEWHERE THE PROVISION OF NEW COMMUNITY HALLS AND EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING COMMUNITY HALLS IN BOTH URBAN AREAS AND VILLAGES WILL BE PERMITTED SUBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL MEETING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- (A) THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EXISTING COMMUNITY USES OR SITED WHERE IT WOULD BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY IT WOULD SERVE;
- (B) SATISFACTORY ACCESS COULD BE PROVIDED, TOGETHER WITH PARKING AND SERVICING ARRANGEMENTS THAT ACCORD WITH THE STANDARDS SET OUT IN APPENDIX (A) OF CHAPTER 3;

- (C) **THE APPROACH ROADS SERVING THE SITE WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE SATISFACTORILY THE TRAFFIC LIKELY TO BE GENERATED BY THE PROPOSAL;**
- (D) **NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE NOISE WOULD BE CAUSED TO ADJOINING OR NEIGHBOURING OCCUPIERS OF PROPERTY OR LAND; AND,**
- (E) **THE SCALE, FORM AND DESIGN OF THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE AREA.**

(Objectives: To ensure provision of new community facilities with appropriate environmental safeguards as to use.)

Community and Village Halls

- 6.2.4 No new specific provisions are made within Great Yarmouth or Gorleston. However, a need may arise for an improved range of community facilities to serve Southtown if the proposed housing areas on part of the Great Yarmouth Business Park site go ahead. Policy EDC5 will be applied in this instance and the requirements written into a "Development Brief" for the site.

Places of Entertainment

- 6.2.5 Policies for places of entertainment are contained in Chapter 4 - Shopping (as relating to Great Yarmouth and Gorleston town centres and seafronts), Chapter 5 - Tourism, Chapter 10 - Sport and Recreation.
- 6.2.6 Being one of the UK's most popular holiday destination areas the Borough has a considerable provision of amusement and video arcades both in major commercial/entertainment areas (e.g. Great Yarmouth and Gorleston seafronts, Hemsby, Hopton and Caister) and on individual holiday accommodation sites. Consequently, the Borough Council considers that the resident population is more than well catered for and there is no need for such facilities in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston town centres or in local and village shopping centres where they would detract from the character of the area and street scene and could be unneighbourly. See Policy TR9.

Places of Worship

- 6.2.7 No new sites for places of worship are put forward in the Plan. However, the Jehovah's Witnesses organisation has asked the Borough Council to help them identify a suitable site for a new "Kingdom Hall" within the Borough. No suitable sites exist which are in the Council's control, therefore, should a planning application be received at a future date for any new place of worship or extension to an existing place of worship it will be determined against Policy EDC5 (Criteria A to E) provided other local plan policy provisions are met.

Arts and Cultural Facilities

- 6.2.8 The Borough Council has supported both financially, and in an enabling role, the development of arts and cultural facilities. Initiatives in this area will be generally supported.

- 6.2.9 POLICY EDC6 PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OR EXTENSION OF EXISTING MUSEUMS, THEATRES AND HERITAGE FEATURES WILL BE ENCOURAGED PROVIDED THEY DO NOT CONFLICT WITH OTHER PLAN POLICIES.**

(Objective: To encourage the maintenance and development of arts and cultural facilities in the Borough.)

6.3 HEALTH SERVICES

- 6.3.1 Primary and Secondary health care services are provided by the Norfolk Health Authority and the Suffolk Health Authority, they are both purchasers of health care services which are provided by community and secondary care trusts.
- 6.3.2 The principal hospital in Great Yarmouth is the James Paget. According to timescales indicated by the Health Authority, present plans for development suggest an increase in the utilisation of the present site with additional land being needed by the mid-1990s.

6.4 SOCIAL SERVICES AND CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

General

- 6.4.1 Whilst health care is the responsibility of the East Norfolk Health Commission other agencies such as the County Council's Social Services Department and the Norfolk Family Practitioner Committee have important roles to play in the welfare and well-being of the community at large.
- 6.4.2 Any proposals for local community facilities such as doctors' and dentists' surgeries; local advice centres; community offices etc. will be determined against Policy EDC5.

Residential and Nursing Homes

- 6.4.3 Residential and Nursing Homes which are licensed by the County Council or Health Authority under the Registered Homes Act 1984 cater for the aged and infirm where a significant element of care is involved.
- 6.4.4 Great Yarmouth and Gorleston have a plentiful supply of guest houses and other large properties which have potential for conversion to residential and nursing homes, provided they are not located in an area of Primary Holiday Accommodation, as defined on the Proposals Map and where Policy TR4 will apply. Matters relating to wardened accommodation and covered by Part III of the Housing Act 1948 are dealt with in Chapter 2 - Housing.

Note: 6.3.3 deleted. Superseded by events.

