

# Acton Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (2019 to 2022)

**Presented to Acton Annual Parish Meeting on  
Monday 29 April 2019**

# Acton Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP)

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## 1. Existing Infrastructure audit

Acton is a hinterland village. Table A (below) shows the infrastructure underpinning the local community.

		Yes	No
<b>Banking/Post Office/Retail</b>	<b>Convenience store</b>	x	
	Post office		x
	Food/drink outlet		x
	<b>Public house</b>	x	
	Baker		x
	Butcher		x
	Hairdresser		x
	Newsagents		x
	Bank		x
	24-hr ATM		x
	Fuel station		x
<b>Education</b>	<b>Facilities for pre-school children</b>	x	
	<b>Primary school</b>	x	
	Secondary school		x
	Sixth Form / Further Education		x
<b>Employment</b>	Strategic site within 5km		x
	<b>Site (up to 100 employees) within 5km</b>	x	
<b>Community Centres</b>	<b>Village hall</b>	x	
	<b>Place of worship</b>	x	
	Library		x
	<b>Mobile library service</b>	x	
<b>Medical</b>	Doctors surgery		x
	Chemist or pharmacy		x
	Dentist		x
	Optician		x
<b>Public Transport</b>	<b>Bus stop connecting to Sudbury</b>	x	
	Railway station		x
<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Recreation ground/play area</b>	x	
	<b>Sports hall for badminton</b>	x	
	<b>Allotment</b>	x	
	<b>Public rights of way</b>	x	
<b>Internet connectivity</b>	<b>Fibre or superfast broadband</b>	x	
<b>Proximity</b>	<b>to a town/urban area within 5km</b>	x	
	To a core village within 2km		x

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- 1.1 The convenience store on Acton High Street is the only retail outlet in a community serving 1,804 (2011 census).
- 1.2 The community is served by Acton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.
- 1.3 The Draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Plan suggests that future employment sites should be sustainable and located where employment is required. The relatively close proximity of the industrial estates on the Melford Road is marred by the lack of safe pedestrian access to these sites. The Parish Council notes that a number of the units are unoccupied, and have been for some time.
- 1.4 The village hall is situated behind the Crown Public House on Acton High Street. The village hall is owned and run by the trustees of the Acton Playing Field and Village Hall Association. The village hall is a valuable village asset providing facilities for many community groups. The following regular activities are based in the village hall:

<b>Regular activities at Acton Village Hall (weekly unless indicated)</b>		
Monday	Zumba	6:30pm – 7:15pm
	Scouts	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Tuesday	Karate	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday	Drop-in Group	10:00am – 12:00am, monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weds
	Pilates	9:00am – 10:00am, 10:00am – 11:00am
	Games Club	2:00pm – 4:00pm, monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds
	Beavers	5:45pm – 7:00pm
Thursday	Chair-based exercise	10:15am – 11:15am
	Sweet Pea Drama	4:00pm – 5:30pm
	Hoopers	6:00pm to 7:00pm
	Garden Club	7:30pm – 9:00pm, monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs
Friday	Creative Stitch	9:30am - 12:30pm
Saturday	Baby Ballet	9:00am – 12:00pm

- 1.5 There are no medical support services within Acton.
- 1.6 Many local residents rely on the bus service connecting Acton to Sudbury to meet their domestic and employment needs. The peak time bus service from Acton to both Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds is limited.

There are limited buses available to workers wishing to arrive in Sudbury for a 9:00am start. There is no bus between 17.12pm and 18.37 for workers returning to Acton from Sudbury.

Travel towards Bury St Edmunds cannot be described as a regular peak time service. There is no bus between 7.47am and 9.37am. For workers to return from Bury, there are buses at 17.12 and 18.22, the latter being the last bus.

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The only buses connecting Acton to the Community Health Centre are the Felix 700 Service which arrives at 10.32 but does not return until 14.03, or arrives at 14.32 and returns at 16.03. Unfortunately, appointment times pay no regard to bus timetabling.

In responding to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Plan consultation, The Parish Council has recommended improving the peak hour services to Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds and that the service from Acton to the Community Health Centre is made fit for purpose.

The nearest rail stations are at Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds.

- 1.7 The following play equipment for younger children is provided for younger children at Lime Tree Green:

Agility bars	Traverse climber wall	Goal posts
Junior multiplay	Seesaw rocker	Rope traverse
Balance beams	Suspended balance beam	Suspended log walk
Junior swings	Toddler swings	Talk tubes
Inclined balance beams	Balance run	Burma bridge
Carousel roundabout	Carousel spica	Carousel overhead
Log climber		

The 2018 annual play inspection report recommends that the Junior multiplay equipment (see image on page 10) be replaced.

There is a lack of facilities for our local teenage community. In responding to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Plan consultation, the Parish Council has recommended that this issue is addressed prior to granting permission for significant housing development within the parish.

- 1.8 Acton Parish Council maintains 40 well-ordered allotment plots on Barrow Hill. The allotments are popular and there is a waiting list for plots. This valuable facility, while well supported by the local community, has no water supply. The drought-like conditions in the summer of 2018 highlighted this shortcoming. Allotment holders have expressed interest in a metered water supply which can be accessed by allotment holders but housed securely to prevent abuse.
- 1.9 Acton contains many public rights of way. Although well used by local residents it is felt that better signage and supporting literature could make Acton's rights of way a specific attraction for residents in surrounding villages and further abroad. Even a relatively small influx of visitors will benefit the local pub and convenience shop and help to make these vulnerable facilities more secure.
- 1.10 Edna's Drift is the name given locally to the footway connecting the High Street to Lambert Drive and the local primary school. Although the footway is currently maintained by the District Council it is anticipated that Public Realm will be content for the Parish Council to take responsibility for the maintenance of this area. Because of its important strategic position in the village and the high number of users, residents wish to see higher standards of maintenance and presentation along the wider part of this thoroughfare.

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1.11 The Council is advised that the local internet network has very limited capacity for expansion. This is a matter of local concern. The Council has indicated in its response to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Plan consultation that it looks to the Planning Authority to ensure that the internet infrastructure is improved before permitting further development within Acton.

1.12 Acton is approximately 3km from Sudbury.

## 2. External Infrastructure audit

2.1 The dearth of services within Acton (see table A) indicates why Acton residents rely heavily on services provided in the town of Sudbury and in neighbouring core villages of Lavenham and Long Melford.

2.2 The need to travel to services emphasises the degree to which Acton is reliant on good transport links to these neighbouring communities and why the bus service is particularly important to local residents.

2.3 Unfortunately, reliance on the car as a means of transport is heightened by the fact that none of the main routes leading away from Acton to Sudbury, Lavenham and Long Melford are served by footpaths.

2.4 Acton is not a self-sustaining community and any further growth in housing numbers must take account of this.

## 3. Community Infrastructure needs and aspirations

### 3.1 Village hall

The Trustees and users of the village hall have indicated that the village hall kitchen (see below) needs to be refurbished.



Users of the village hall have also indicated that it would be helpful for the main hall to be fitted with acoustic boarding.

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## 3.2 Lime Tree Green

The 2018 annual safety inspection report indicates that the Junior Multiplay equipment does not conform to current safety standards. This is the largest and much-used item of play equipment and the Parish Council believes that it needs to be replaced.

An adult fitness trail has been suggested by residents.

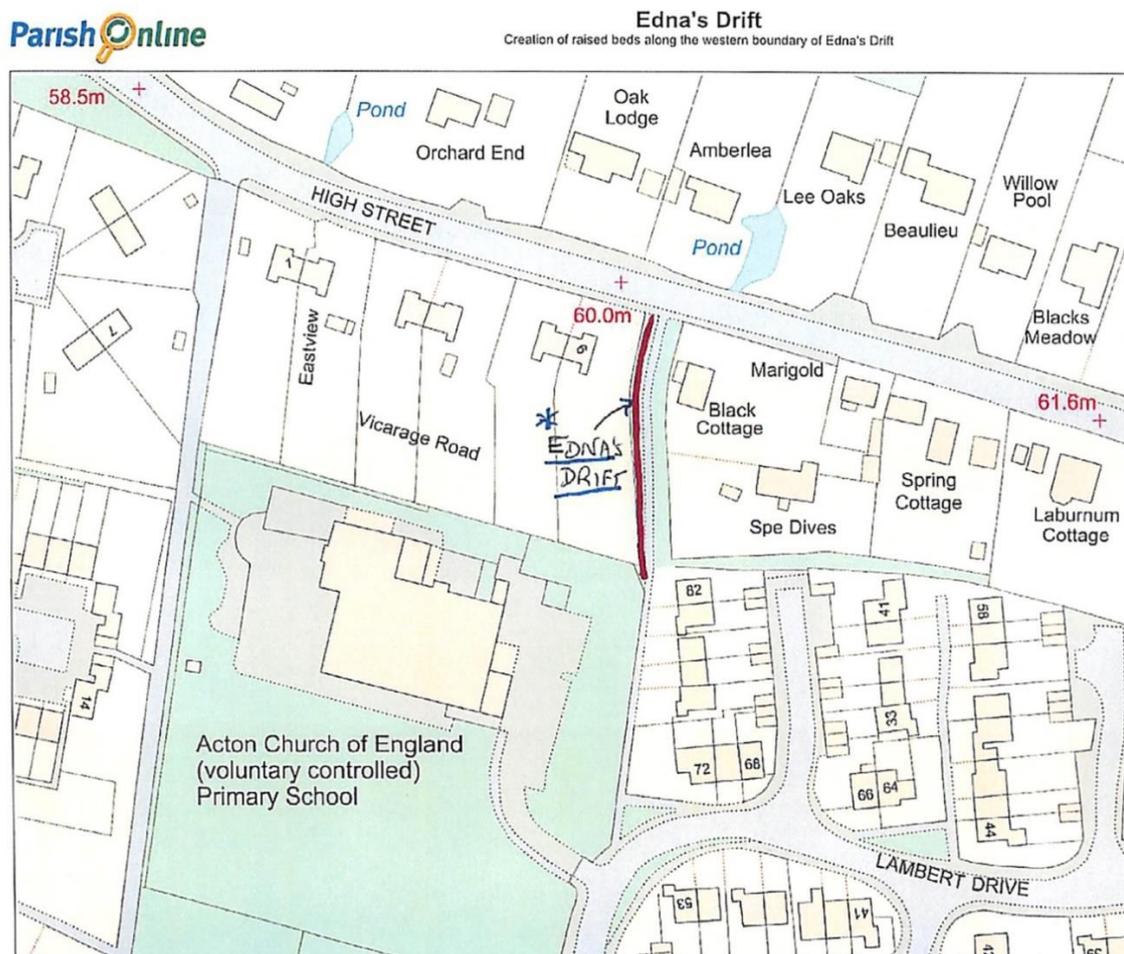
## 3.3 All Saints Church, Acton

All Saints Church contains the best preserved medieval military memorial brass of Sir Robert de Bures (died 1331) and is home to the Jennens Monument.

Because the Parish Church has no toilet facilities, it is proposed to install a Natsol Composting Toilet. It is intended that the toilet will be accessible and available for use by those attending church services, community events, tourists and those visiting the church graveyard. The toilet is designed to generate no smells with waste products collected in a soakaway.

## 3.4 Edna's Drift

Residents have requested that 62.5m of new raised borders be created along the length of the footpath from the High Street to the school's northern boundary. The extent of the work is illustrated in the map below.



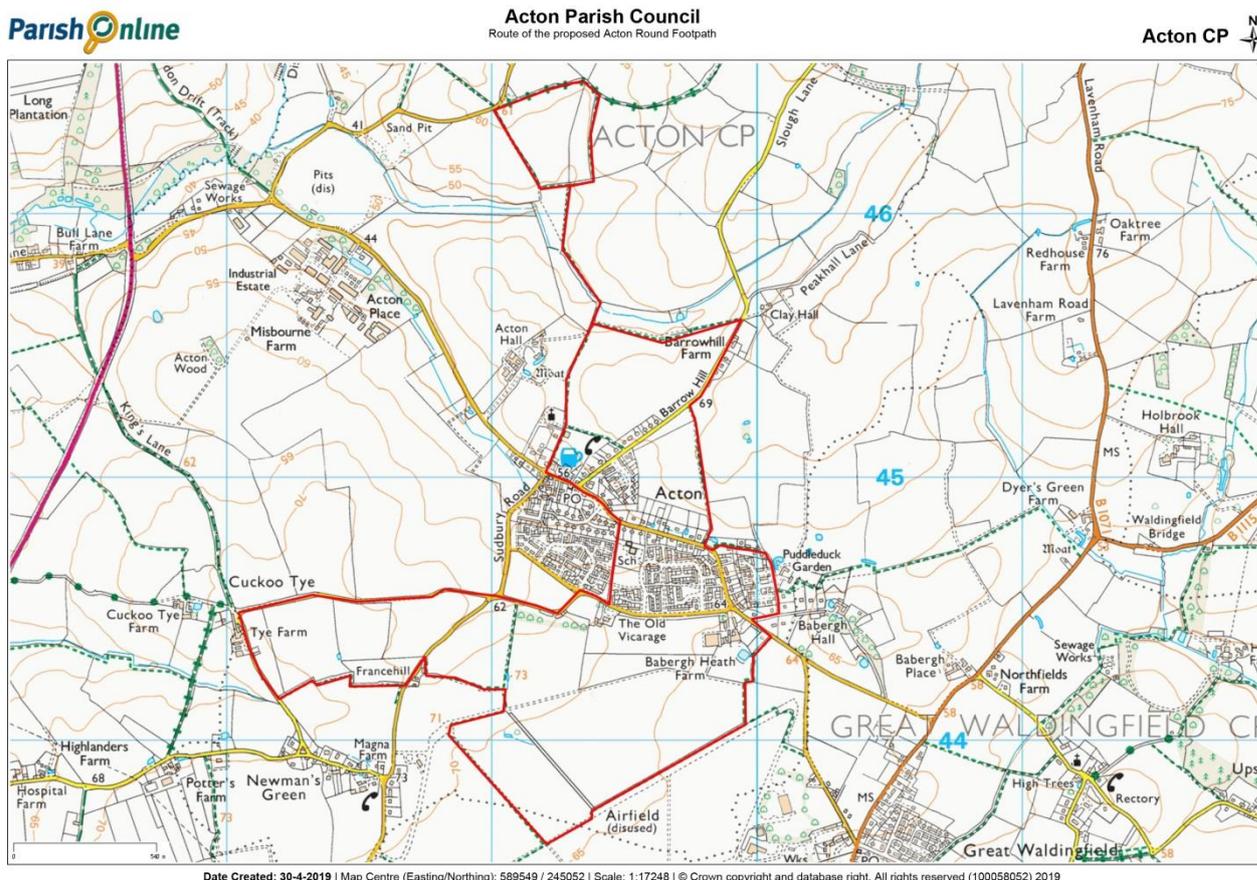
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## 3.5 Allotment

Allotment holders have indicated a desire for a securely housed, accessible water supply. The allotments are less than 50m from housing on Barrow Hill.

## 3.6 Public rights of way

Local residents have suggested that signage of the more than 6,500 meters of public rights of way be improved and specifically that the route indicated in red on the map below should be designated as *The Acton Round*.



It is proposed that *The Acton Round* be promoted in local and county-wide literature to attract visitors which will help to sustain facilities such as the village shop and pub.

## 4. Community Engagement

4.1 In the process of drawing up this document the Parish Council has consulted as follows:

March 2018: it was proposed at the Parish Council meeting dated 12 March 2018 that an Acton Infrastructure Plan be drawn up in order to identify community infrastructure aspirations and to facilitate access to CIL funding.

Sept 2018: Acton residents were invited, via the Parish Council newsletter, which is delivered to each home in Acton, to comment on local facilities that are either lacking or needing to be replaced or improved.

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- Sept 2018: the Trustees were consulted about work needing to be done at the Village Hall.
- Dec 2018: the Parish Council newsletter advised residents about responses received to date and invited further suggestions by 31 December 2018 so that a first draft of the Acton Infrastructure Plan can be considered by the Parish Council on 21 January 2019.
- Jan 2019: the Parish Council considered the first draft of the Acton Infrastructure Plan.
- March 2019: the Parish Council approved the document to be presented to the Annual Parish Meeting of Residents.
- April 2019: this Acton Infrastructure Plan was adopted by residents at the 2019 Acton Parish Meeting.

## 5. Expected growth

- 5.1 The Register of Electors at December 2018 indicated 740 dwellings in Acton compared to 698 in 2015/16. This 6% increase in the number of dwellings has attracted no additional or updated infrastructure.
- 5.2 On 25 October 2017, the Planning Authority approved application DC/17/02751 giving outline permission for a residential development of up to 100 dwellings on land south east of Barrow Hill, Acton. Building 100 new dwellings will increase the housing stock within Acton by a further 13.5%.
- 5.3 The Council notes that the Planning Authority has identified a developable site (SS0177) on Tamage Road. This site is immediately adjacent, but outside of the current Acton settlement boundary. In view of the approval given to application DC/17/02751 the Council has requested that site SS0177 be disregarded on the grounds that this will constitute overdevelopment and stretch already sparse local infrastructure to breaking point.

## 6. Investment priorities and funding

- 6.1 It is unlikely that all the items proposed for inclusion in the Acton Infrastructure Plan can be funded during the period April 2019 to March 2022.

It is therefore proposed to carry forward the installation of acoustic boarding to the next infrastructure review.

The Parish Council is reluctant to install adult fitness facilities at Lime Tree Green as this area is specifically set aside as a children's play area. The Parish Meeting resolved that a water supply to the allotments on Barrow Hill was not required.

The prioritised order of community infrastructure investment is as follows:

- (a) Refitting the village hall kitchen**  
**Work recommended in the 2019/20 financial year**  
**Submit bid for CIL funding in October 2019**

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The Parish Council is prepared to contribute up to £3,000 from its Community Hall Reserve Fund towards the cost of this work.

The Parish Council anticipates contributing up to a further £2,500 from funds received under the District Council's 15% local CIL allocation.

Acton residents look to the District Council to match fund the contributions made by the Parish Council from central CIL funds.

The Village Hall Trustees will fund expenditure in excess of £11,000 from its reserves.

**(b) Replacing the Junior Multiplay equipment at Lime Tree Green  
Work recommended in the 2020/21 financial year  
Submit bid for CIL funding in May 2020**



The Parish Council is prepared to contribute up to £10,000 from its Play Equipment Reserve Fund towards the cost of this work.

The Parish Council anticipates contributing up to a further £2,500 from funds received under the District Council's 15% local CIL allocation.

Acton residents look to the District Council to match fund the contributions made by the Parish Council from central CIL funds.

Acton Parish Council will fund expenditure in excess of £25,000 from its General Reserve Fund.

**(c) Creating raised beds along Edna's Drift  
Work recommended in the 2020/21 financial year  
Submit bid for CIL funding in October 2020**

The Parish Council is prepared to contribute up to £3,000 towards the cost of this work. This will be funded from either its Footpaths Reserve Fund or, subject to availability, from funds received under the District Council's 15% local CIL allocation.

Acton residents look to the District Council to match fund the contributions made by the Parish Council from central CIL funds.

The Parish Council will fund expenditure in excess of £6,000 from its General Fund



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reserves.

- (d) Installation of a Natsol composting toilet at the parish church**  
**Work recommended in the 2020/21 financial year**  
**Submit bid for CIL funding in October 2020**

The Parish Council is prepared to contribute up to £2,500 from its Churchyard Reserve Fund towards the cost of this work.

Acton residents look to the District Council to match fund the contributions made by the Parish Council from central CIL funds.

The Parish Church will fund expenditure in excess of £5,000 from its reserves and other external funding.

- (e) Provide signage for the Acton Round, a newly designated tourist path**  
**Work recommended in the 2021/22 financial year**  
**Submit bid for CIL funding in October 2021**

The Parish Council is prepared to contribute up to £3,000 from its Paths Repair and Maintenance Fund towards the cost of this work.

Acton residents look to the District Council to fund any additional costs from its central CIL funds.

The Parish Council will fund the printing of tourist literature from its 2021/22 General Fund budget allocation.

- 6.2 The Parish Council will undertake a further consultation regarding parish infrastructure needs at the Annual Meeting in April 2022.