

Social and Community Facilities

- 4.26 Core Strategy SC1 sets out the basis for protecting key community assets from development which would otherwise detract from them or even prevent their use altogether. The village hall and adjoining recreation area are major assets for Withington, both providing facilities used by residents of the parish and from a much larger catchment. In addition the village hall in Preston Wynne is an important community asset. The church in Westhide meets the need for religious and secular activities. The church in Withington is also used for school and secular activities as part of the cultural life of the area. Other important facilities include the Withington Village Store, and the Post Office.
- 4.27 The Withington School is a very valuable asset to the parish ensuring that education provision is sustainable with relatively short journeys to school. Where appropriate, developer contributions will be sought to deliver, or support the delivery of improvements to these aspects of village life.
- 4.28 Issues of road safety, traffic speed, pedestrian safety and road maintenance are considered as very important to address. Due to the continued occurrence of flooding on roads throughout the plan area the maintenance of ditches, drains and verges is considered a particular priority. In Withington Marsh there is a continual need to monitor the flood risk (see below). The restoration of the canal could assist in reducing the risk. There is also scope for improved footpath provision within Withington, particularly between the housing developments over the last 40 years, the school, shop, post office and village hall.

Policy P13 Social and Community Facilities

Local social, cultural and community facilities, including the school, shop, post office, churches, village hall and recreation areas, will be protected, retained and enhanced where possible in accordance with Core Strategy Policy SC1. In particular:

Proposals for new community facilities adjacent to the Withington Village Hall will be supported where they do not compromise residential amenity.

Appropriate developer contributions will be sought towards meeting appropriate community needs, including (but not exclusively):

- a. **Provision and improvement of footpaths linking community facilities in Withington.**
- b. **Support for the continued use of the lengthsman scheme for highway and footpath works and maintenance;**
- c. **Traffic speed monitoring and enforcement.**
- d. **Village halls and community buildings including the churches,**
- e. **Recreation areas/open space maintenance and improvements**