



RECREATION & LEISURE

Current Situation

Jubilee Hall has been the main location for village activities since it opened in 2002. It has 2 main rooms, the larger Graham Clarke Hall and the Memorial Room which is used for smaller gatherings such as Parish Council meetings. The running of the Hall and its fundraising are controlled by the Jubilee Hall Management Committee.

It now provides a venue for the playgroup, clubs, activities, exercise classes, concerts, jumble sales, fundraising events and can be hired for private functions.

Salhouse School is also used for village activities with a weekly Yoga session held there while concerts and flower festivals have been held in All Saints Church.

Two **public houses**, the C17th Bell Inn (temporarily closed) and The Lodge, a Victorian former vicarage, serve meals and provide venues for live music and private functions. Both pubs have beer gardens and Salhouse Bell Bowls Club uses the bowling green adjacent to The Bell Inn.

The 6 acre **playing field** at Thieves Lane is owned by Salhouse United Charities Trust but leased to, and maintained by, Salhouse Parish Council. The field is sub-let to Salhouse Rovers Football Club, its main user, for specified periods between August and April and, with the exception of the football pitches when they are in use, the field is open to the public at all times.

The **children's play area** is situated adjacent to the playing field and is also the responsibility of, and maintained by, the Parish Council. The present play equipment was installed early in the 1990s as the result of a village fundraising campaign. A drive to raise money for improvements to the play area was initiated in 2004 by a group of young mothers who achieved charity status and held fundraising events, but due to other commitments they now seem likely to disband. Their work has been taken over by the newly formed Salhouse Parish Council Playing Field Committee.

Salhouse Broad lies to the east of the village and is the property of a local landowner. It is accessible on foot from the village and the public also has right of navigation over the water. This beautiful area is enjoyed by villagers and holidaymakers alike; a recently installed play area

has been designed to blend in with the natural surroundings and new bench seating allows visitors to stop and enjoy the view. There are organised events throughout the year such as an Easter Egg Hunt, Moth Evenings and Star Walks. It is now possible to hire canoes there and a pre-bookable water taxi is available, summer only, from Salhouse Broad to Hoveton Great Broad.



The village is served by a number of **rural footpaths (See map at page 72)**, including walks publicised in the Broads Authority Walks and Norfolk County Council Walks leaflets. Significantly, the footpath from Station Road to Hall Drive is the only pedestrian route which links the two ends of the village which are some 1/2 mile apart.

Consultation Process

The Working Group set out to investigate the leisure facilities already available in the village, what villagers think of these facilities and what they would like to see provided in the future. Regular meetings were held and 'mini questionnaires' used to gather information. The aim was to consult a representative selection of the community including all age groups and those coping with disabilities. It was explained that their answers were important as they would help to formulate the household Questionnaire. Activity organisers were asked about their satisfaction with facilities and the popularity of their particular activity.

Information was also gathered from:

- ◆ The **Awareness and Open Days**.
- ◆ An **art competition** held for the children of Salhouse Primary School.



- ◆ **Young Adults Forum** and one to one interviews.



- ◆ **Village walkabouts** which included rural footpaths, the playing field and children's play area where such issues as accessibility and condition were noted.
- ◆ **External agencies** including Age Concern, Broadland District Resource Base (Youth Resources), Norfolk Children's Services and the Countryside Access Development Officer, Norfolk County Council, concerning footpaths and bridleways.
- ◆ **Salhouse United Charities** to ascertain whether extra charity land could be used to extend the playing field, the type of facilities that could be built there or if any land could be rented to villagers as allotments. The Charity's original aim was to alleviate poverty and it now distributes individual grants to any resident of Salhouse who might be eligible. It was learnt that currently no further land is available for use by the village.

The consultation process determined that questions would concentrate on footpaths, playing field, play area, village activities and community spirit to find out whether:

- ◆ There would be enough interest in youth and senior citizens activities.
- ◆ Volunteers would come forward to help organise these.
- ◆ There would be any volunteers to help fundraise for a new play area.
- ◆ More sports facilities would be popular.
- ◆ Villagers would like more open spaces for recreational use or, perhaps, allotments.

Results of the Consultation Process

Most **activities** held in Jubilee Hall are well attended by a mixture of villagers and participants from surrounding areas; exercise classes ranging from Vintage Vigour to Yoga and Pilates are particularly popular. The consensus of opinion from villagers, however, is that there are not enough appropriate activities for the young, old or disabled.



"As far as I know there are no activities for senior citizens or disabled people (which is) very much behind other places"

- ◆ Some **senior citizens** participate in clubs and activities such as Vintage Vigour and Salhouse WI but mobility problems and advanced age prevent others from joining in. Many would be interested in classes and clubs such as crafts, computer, gardening and local history. They like the idea of a designated club or luncheon venue but foresee problems in getting anyone to organise it.



- ◆ The **under 45 age group** find village clubs and activities less appealing; timing is awkward or there is nothing to interest them. Foreign languages, self defence and more exercise classes were suggested and morning sessions, especially on Saturdays, would be more convenient.
- ◆ A **young adults' forum** was held at The Bell Inn to enable the age group 18-30 to contribute and, as the number of participants was low, another group of a similar age was consulted through a mini questionnaire. Both groups gave very similar answers. Their main focus of entertainment and leisure in the village was The Bell Inn, otherwise they travelled to Norwich. They all feel that the playing field should be used for additional sports and they would like to see multi purpose courts, tennis and cricket pitch; a large number say they use rural footpaths and visit Salhouse Broad. They do not attend events at Jubilee Hall but think that activities for the Hall should be family orientated. They would have liked to have had a youth club available when they were younger and feel that one is needed now.
- ◆ **Younger teenagers** would like a youth club but as they get older they want somewhere to meet their friends and perhaps have a cup of coffee. In the Questionnaire a large number of households (51%) feel that there is a need for a designated meeting place for this age group. At present most travel to Norwich for their leisure pursuits. All would like better facilities available in Salhouse, especially a hard surface area, which could incorporate a range of sports.



- ◆ **Children** nowadays mostly play at home or at friends' houses and few use the play area or playing field. However, they do take part in after school clubs, for example Cubs and Brownies and enjoy sports related pursuits.

New activities consistently suggested were a gardening club, computing, history, photography, wine, dance, and carpet and short mat bowls. Volunteers were sought at the Open Day but offers of help and interest were patchy, mirroring the response from the household Questionnaire. Another Open Day was then arranged in the Jubilee Hall to enable any interested volunteers to start additional groups and activities. As a result, the village now has a Carers group, a history group, wine, book and gardening clubs, "ramblers" and a grant application committee. Other clubs and groups are possible in the future.

Following advice from Age Concern, that the more conventional type of **senior citizens' club** should be avoided as this does not attract the younger retired, it was decided to hold an afternoon tea to gauge whether events such as this would be viable. This was enjoyed by those who attended and is now a monthly event.

With regard to a **youth club**, a meeting was arranged between village volunteers and representatives from Norfolk Children's Services and Norfolk Council for Voluntary Youth Services who were able to provide information and support. The Youth Club is now up and running.

Annual village events such as fetes, flower and garden shows as well as barbeques were favoured by all age groups, as reflected in other areas of the Parish Plan report. However, the village has not held its own fete or show for a considerable number of years primarily because of a lack of volunteers to organise them.

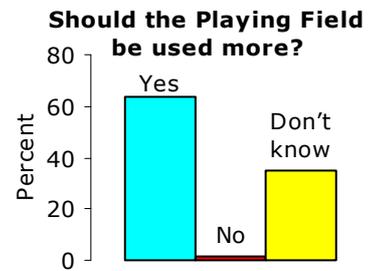
The consensus of opinion is that the village needs such events to promote community spirit and they would also be a good way of fundraising. Many highlighted the need to bring the village together.

"Very 'separate' at the moment with a vast amount of apathy"

Jubilee Hall was generally considered to be a good facility although comments included the wish for more storage and a larger sink in the disabled toilet. Apparently the Hall can be cold in the winter months and there was also concern that there is minimal spare capacity for new bookings. Current OFSTED legislation restricts dual use of the Hall when the children's playgroup is running,

therefore limiting use for additional activities.

The playing field is well maintained but under-utilised by the village; sports facilities are inadequate and it is perceived by many to be 'only a football field'. All age groups would like to see improved facilities with various types of hard surface ball games being popular suggestions.



- ◆ A sports hall was supported by 52% of respondents to the household Questionnaire. The school has plans to build an activity hall but awaits funding. The suggestion of a joint venture between village and School is addressed in the Lifelong Learning Report.

- ◆ A cycle track would be popular as would a swimming pool and facilities for team games such as rugby and cricket; however, there was less support for a skateboard park. In general, villagers do not want the playing field to be open to dog walkers.



- ◆ At the Open Day most interest was generated by the idea of a rejuvenated play area and a hard court facility such as a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

"An all-weather surface for multiple sports in part of the area would be good"

The play area, in the opinion of all age groups, does not meet the needs of the village children and requires more equipment and more security; the area is fenced but cannot be secured as there is no gate. It was felt that better facilities would encourage more use.

"Facilities very poor"
"Disgusting, total eyesore, embarrassment to the village"

An **art competition** enabled Salhouse School



children to contribute to the process by designing their ideal play area. There were some magnificent and imaginative entries but undoubtedly they all think the play area is in need of a facelift. Swings, slides, roundabout, playhouse, assault course, sandpit and climbing apparatus are amongst the most popular 'wishes'. However they also place a high importance on wheelchair access as well as landscaping with flowers, paths, picnic benches, a quiet area, toilets, bike tracks and bins.

Children (8-10 years) who filled in **mini questionnaires** also wished to have a better play area and would like water sports such as sailing and canoeing at Salhouse Broad, tennis, cricket, hockey, golf, netball, swimming and gymnastics. Extra clubs such as art, nature, computer and a designated youth club were also popular with this age group.

Very few villagers expressed interest in helping to fundraise for a new play area although a petition had been handed in at the Awareness Day requesting that it should be made a priority of the Parish Plan. Despite considerable dissatisfaction with the current facilities many households cited lack of time or commitments outside the village as reasons why they are not prepared to help.

Action Underway

The recently formed Salhouse Playing Field Committee has undertaken the task of rejuvenating the facilities on the playing field which will include a new play area. To date they have obtained draft plans, applied for the first of many grants and commenced plans for fund raising events.

Leisure Facilities

Green Open Space. A significant number of households would like more space for recreational use and suggested locations include the land opposite the Post Office, along Norwich Road and land adjoining the playing field. The idea of renting an allotment appealed to 42 households.

Rural Footpaths and Ponds. In the main villagers are happy with the condition of rural footpaths and village ponds and appreciate living in an area with access to the countryside. Most use the footpaths even if only occasionally and a good number use them on a daily basis.

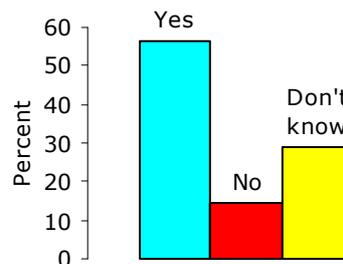
However, there are concerns regarding dog fouling, overgrown, narrow and muddy paths as well as ponds drying up in summer.



- ◆ The **Station Road to Hall Drive footpath (Footpath 14)** is perceived to be poorly and infrequently maintained and is not user friendly. Problems include overgrown vegetation, narrow sections, potholes and muddy areas where drainage is poor. A better surface and more regular maintenance were among the suggestions to improve the footpath. It should also be disabled and pushchair user friendly and some villagers also favour access for cyclists. This footpath has now been placed on a regular maintenance schedule by the County Council and it is proposed to upgrade the surface where necessary.



Should the rural footpath between Station Rd and Hall Drive be improved?



“Cut back hedges like they were 20 years ago”

“Good to have a cycle path join two ends of village together”

“Need to have links between both ends of the village just like they have done at the Plumsteads”

- ◆ It was suggested that a **new footpath** along Bell Lane linking the village to All Saints Church would be of benefit to both villagers and tourists, as would a similar link with



Salhouse Broad car park and onward to Woodbastwick.

- ◆ A **circular walk** from the car park to the Broad would also be welcomed, as would a tearoom in the same location.
- ◆ The **NCC footpath information board** at the playing field car park is almost derelict and needs urgent replacement.
- ◆ **Walks leaflets** produced by the Broads Authority and the County Council require updating.

Footpath Report to Norfolk County Council

The 9 footpaths, one bridleway and one Circular Walk in the Parish were walked by members of the Steering Group; their condition and that of the signage was noted. A Report was then passed to the Countryside Access Development Officer, Department of Planning and Transportation, Norfolk County Council. The problems associated with the Station Road to Hall Drive footpath (Footpath 14), were covered in full detail as a separate Annex to that Report.

YOUTH SECTION

In addition to other Youth consultation processes a Youth Section (for the under 18 age group) was included in the household Questionnaire. The lower number of replies probably reflected the fact that young families were in the minority of respondents to the Questionnaire. However, the responses were consistent with the information we had already gathered from this age group.

Activities

Many youngsters would like 'a place to chill' and where they can meet their friends. A youth club would be popular and should cater for a wide range of age groups, up to 18 years. When asked where it should be held the most popular location was Jubilee Hall although the playing field and Salhouse School also received mentions.

It was thought a **youth club** should include table tennis, pc and board games, PlayStation, tuck-shop for snacks, crafts, outings, discos, sports of all kinds, music and dancing. As already reported the Youth Club has now been formed.

Aside from a youth club, there are other activities on the 'wish list'. Some children are interested in

dance but, once again, sport in one form or another is the most popular choice, including water sports.

Play Area and Playing Field

Most children do not use the **play area** as they consider there is nothing to do there and certainly nothing for older children who are too big for the existing equipment:



*"Nothing to do, with or without my friends"
"No activities on offer that appeal to me and my friends."*



Salhouse children want activity equipment in their play area: swings (especially for older children), slide, tennis/basketball court, climbing frame/activity equipment, roundabout, skate park and a cycle track.

*"Too old for play equipment (at) 11"
"you can't fit into the swings"*

Just over ½ said they use the **playing field**. Once again, comments reflect their view that there is nothing to do and no organised activities. It is also too far from Station Road to be easily accessible. When asked what extra sports they would like to see take place on the playing field, the response was wide ranging. The most popular sports would be tennis, rugby, cricket, hockey, basketball, rounders, badminton and netball. More varied suggestions included a cycle track, martial arts, boxing, a girls' football team and War Hammer.





*"Too far away – not able to walk,
there is no footpath"*

*"Only to meet friends and then cycle
off somewhere"*

"It's football only"

"Multi sports area, similar to that in Rackheath"

*"Tennis court, skate park, bike jumps,
football practice, swings, slide, fun stuff."*

*"Swings for older children, basketball hoop, wall to
kick a ball against, adventure play equipment
– like Salhouse School"*

Other aspects of life in Salhouse

The young villagers are not so different from their parents! They appreciate how nice it is to live in the countryside and at the same time, be near to all the amenities Norwich has to offer.

They enjoy the tranquillity, wildlife, relative safety of our environment and value their friends and school.

*"It's nice living in the country but we're not
far from the City and it feels safe."*

However there is always a down side. Just over ½ use public transport, and most say that it meets their needs, but services are too expensive and not regular enough. Also, there's not a lot to do especially when there are not many activities, transport is infrequent and your friends don't live nearby!

*"I'm too old but even if I wasn't I wouldn't go
(Playing Field) because it's where all the
Salhouse yobs go and it's not a nice
environment"*

Sadly, as in many other communities there also seems to be a 'yob' element which many youngsters do not like.

What activities would you like to see provided by a youth club?



"...a place to chill"