

## **Locality master plans - Kington**

### **1. About Kington Library**

The Kington locality is situated in the west of the county on the border with Powys, it has a total population of 7,400 residents (the smallest locality in terms of population size) and covers 186 km<sup>2</sup>. The surrounding rural area is the least densely populated sub-locality in Herefordshire. It comprises 15 parishes (inc. Kington parish), reaching from the edge of Presteigne in the north to the river Wye, which forms its southern boundary, and as far east as Pembridge (the locality's largest village). Kington is one of the more remote localities and of the market towns, Kington is the furthest from Hereford.

### **2. Services required**

As a market town, Kington serves the needs of its residents, as well as those of the surrounding rural areas. In asset terms there is a requirement for Council services (including library services, customer services, registration services, a cemetery, primary and secondary education, children's and family services, household waste site, sports facilities, cultural offer), integrated health and social care services, blue light services and voluntary services. Parish and town councils are also likely to have more responsibility for the delivery of services needed by local communities and their needs need to be explored through the emerging Locality Partnerships. A location plan of assets and a legend of facilities is supplied as part of this paper.

Two retained fire stations at Kington and Eardisley, both will remain. There is a police station in Kington.

### **3. Steps already taken**

The Lady Hawkins Community Leisure Centre provides leisure facilities to the Kington area. The Leisure Centre was opened in June 1995, and is used jointly by the school and the local community. Part funded by the community, Herefordshire Council manages the facility on behalf of the Lady Hawkins' Community Leisure Centre Trust.

Kington Court (Health and Social Care centre) was purpose built and opened in June 2003. The home is owned by Blanchworth Care Ltd and is registered to accommodate 48 residents.

Significant refurbishment was carried out to the Kington library building in 2006. The new-look Kington Centre houses the Library Service and also provides access to a wide range of information and advice on a number of council services. There is also space available for community use and hire.

The former dedicated Youth Centre building on the Lady Hawkins School site was extended and refurbished in 2008 so that it could provide services for younger children through Sure Start, in addition to improving the building for the young people who use it at lunchtimes and evenings. A purpose built multi-agency office, including intervention centre, was incorporated into the site in 2011. This facility provides hot-desking, consultation rooms, activity/meeting room, PCT and Council wired and wireless network.

The old cottage hospital building was sold by Herefordshire's health authority to Advantage West Midlands when it closed after its facilities were moved to Kington Court. The Youth Hostel Association, which has leased and run the hostel since it opened in 2004, bought it from AWM in 2011.

### **4. Asset reviews**

A series of asset reviews have been undertaken within the county over the past 12 months. Potential options including the identification of opportunities for services to co-locate, as well as those properties no longer suitable for service delivery and therefore surplus to operational requirements and available for disposal (either to achieve a capital receipt or a community asset transfer) have all been assessed with the following objectives:

- More effective/efficient use of assets
- Improved public access to services
- Increased co-location and co-working across all sectors
- Reduced revenue expenditure by sharing and redesigning services
- Reduced county carbon footprint

## 5. Proposed work programme for locality

These asset reviews have highlighted a number of potential community asset transfers:

- **Market Hall (used weekly by the Markets Service)** - Discussions are at an early stage with the Town Council around the potential local management of this. This would remove a £1K backlog maintenance liability, but also mean a loss of income of £4k.
- **Mill Street (used April-October by the Kington Tourist Information Centre and the Town Council)** - Transfer discussions underway with Town Council. This would remove a £4K backlog maintenance liability.
- **Old Police Station (used by the Registration Service and space rented by other tenants, including Marches Access Point, Credit Union, Age Concern)** - Transfer discussions underway with Marches Access Point. This would remove a £4K backlog maintenance liability, but also mean a loss of income of £13k. A due diligence exercise is currently being undertaken.

## 6. Other work underway

- Whilst work commenced in 2011 on the development of a Community Led Plan for Kington, other parishes in the locality already have plans in place (Almeley, Brilley, Eardisley Group and Pembridge). An updated plan for Pembridge is currently under review.
- Work on a Household Waste Recycling Centre to be built on land off the A4111 to the south of Kington is expected to start in 2012.
- West Mercia Police is looking at co-locating with HWFR in the existing locality or on a new site (potential to generate a capital receipt) which could also include an ambulance response base.
- A purpose-built medical centre is to be built on land off the A4111 to the south of Kington, containing a doctors' surgery, treatment rooms, dispensary, dental facilities and car parking.