

## APPENDIX B: Local Green Spaces

5.1 Ashley Green Parish is fortunate to have a number of attractive, accessible and well used open spaces located in the heart of the village of Ashley Green. These spaces, which are all either common land or are in public ownership and, therefore, available for the use and enjoyment of residents. This land comprises a number of different types of space, each providing for different uses and users, such as the allotments, the children's playground adjacent to the Memorial Hall and the Glebe.

5.2 These open spaces make a significant contribution to the character of the village and are the sort of local assets that make Ashley Green an attractive place in which to live. In combination with other things, such as access to public transport, Ashley Green's open spaces also make the village a sustainable location for new development, as defined in the NPPF. The Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to find a balance between the ongoing contribution of the village's open spaces to village life and their capacity to attract development interest , which will arise, in part, from the fact that Ashley Green is an attractive, well connected place with accessible, well-maintained and popular public spaces and buildings.



Ashley Green - Aerial Photo of The Playground, Memorial Hall, Allotments, Glebe and Village Green

Image provided by resident of Ashley Green

### 1. The Glebe (and Playground)



**Ashley Green The Glebe**

Images provided by AGNP Steering Group

The Glebe is a small Common Land to the back of the Memorial Hall and Playground. It shares the same characteristics of the Village Green. It provides a great space for children to play and often used by dog walkers and for exercise. Importantly the annual Ashley Green bonfire is always celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> November and is attended by people from surrounding areas and particularly popular as it has a bonfire.





Images provided by AGNP Steering Group

The playground at Ashley Green Memorial Hall is a popular spot for families, featuring a pirate ship, a wooden train, and musical instruments. It is designed for children up to about age 8, with a soft rubber surface and anti-slip strips on the wooden equipment. The playground also includes a cafe, outdoor gym equipment, and is located next to a green space.

#### Key Features:

- **Pirate Ship:** A centrepiece with slides, a rope bridge, and climbing features.
- **Wooden Train:** A large, wooden train provides opportunities for imaginative play.
- **Musical Instruments:** Features like a xylophone, rainmaker, and drums encourage creative play.
- **Swings:** Includes seat swings, a baby swing, and an accessible swing.
- **Outdoor Gym:** Adjacent to the playground, offering fitness equipment for older children and adults.
- **Glebe Cafe:** Located on the terrace, offering refreshments and a place to relax.
- **Parking:** A car park is available, though it can be busy, and there's on-street parking as well.
- **Toilets:** On-site facilities, including baby changing.
- **Surfaces:** Soft rubber and anti-slip strips for safety.

## 2. Ashley Green Village Green



Ashley Green Village Green

Image provided by AGNP Steering Group

The Ashley Green Village Green is Common Land at the centre of the village surrounded by the village's community facilities, the Golden Eagle, The Old School, St John's Church and Memorial Hall. The annual summer fair is held on the village green and is very popular. It is used by the community for street parties held to commemorate national celebrations. It provides a great space for children to play and often used by dog walkers and for physical activity. The village green promotes a sense of community identity.

### 3. Ashley Green Allotments



Ashley Green Allotments

Image provided by AGNP Steering Group

There are 7 full plots (previously 8 but one was removed to make a communal space). Each of these 7 can be divided in half to make 14 half plots. Currently there are 9 tenants taking up a mix of half plots and full plots. The Parish Council has put a lot of

work into the plots this year to redefine the areas and clear them up to make them better spaces. There used to be just one tap, but we have this year improved the area so that each plot now has its own standpipe.

The price of plots as of January 2025 are £40 per plot or £20 per half plot for anyone living in the parish. New tenants from outside the village will be charged £80 for a full plot and £40 for a half plot.

The age of the allotments is unknown. It is the only public land in the parish which Buckinghamshire Council have handed over ownership of to the PC.

The allotments are highly valued by the community in Ashley Green, as they offer a multitude of benefits, including providing access to fresh, affordable produce, promoting physical and mental well-being, fostering a sense of community, and improving the environment. They also provide a space for social interaction and can contribute to a more sustainable food system.