

## Village and Community Halls



## Introduction

Village and community halls are the smallest buildings that can accommodate a sports programme alongside the customary social and arts pursuits. There are a wide variety of types and sizes, all with the following in common – a main activity and assembly space together with ancillary accommodation that might include additional small halls. Whatever the content, design must ensure that a full range of activities can be carried out without detriment to each other.

It is vital to allow sufficient time to get the building brief right and to select an appropriate and accessible site at the heart of the community. The resultant building should be aesthetically pleasing and reflect the care taken to produce a quality facility capable of meeting the evolving needs of the community and the services it needs. A new stand-alone building is often the preferred solution but there are other options that may be more economical:

- Extension and upgrade of an existing community hall to improve environmental standards and permit more activities.
- Addition of a hall, store and revised circulation to a refurbished sports pavilion.
- Inclusion of a community hall in a sports and leisure centre.
- Planning for community use of new schools (primary or secondary) by upgrading some of the accommodation.



**Interior of a typical village hall with dimensions suitable for sport and with a stage for drama.**

## Site planning

### Location

A central location with sufficient car parking is best, close to shops and other well-used facilities and to public transport. A site that is equally accessible to established and new areas of development can instill a sense of ownership across the community.

If the preferred site is in a conservation area the proposed building form and external finishes may be subject to planning requirements that could have a significant impact on development costs. The same potential restrictions apply to any outdoor play area or pitch where floodlighting might be a contentious issue.

Proposals to locate community buildings close to residential areas or elderly people's housing can encounter opposition. The size of a potential site might allow the building and related parking to be set at a reasonable distance from boundaries, or there may have to be some plant screening.

Sport's requirements are often best served where there is sufficient space for an outdoor multi-use games area to supplement activities taking place in the hall. There is no point in replicating facilities provided nearby so a careful evaluation of need is important.

If the site provides for cricket, tennis or bowls the building could double as a pavilion and will have to be oriented so that changing exits and the 'club room' relate to the outdoor facilities. Where there are grass pitches, independent changing rooms will be required.

Proximity to existing services – electricity, gas (where available), water and mains drainage, and to an existing roadway – will all help to reduce cost. Any rights of way or other easements must be identified and their impact on the proposed development assessed. Level, well-drained sites are cheapest to develop.

Consider also if there is sufficient space to allow for car parking, development of outdoor facilities and subsequent extension of the building.



The hall should be close to the centre of the community and wherever possible have access to external play areas.

### Car parking

Requirements for on-site parking vary according to location but there are several common design factors:

- Mark out bays for maximum utilisation and locate parking for disabled people close to the main entrance.
- Define separate pedestrian routes and install ramped curbs between disabled parking bays and the entrance. Changes of level around the building must be ramped and may require handrails.
- Make sure that service vehicles can turn within the site to access the entrance, refuse area and plant room.
- Provide lighting for security and safety.

- Car park noise is often a nuisance to nearby residents especially in the evening. Siting the building to screen neighbours from the car park can alleviate this problem.
- Provide bicycle lock-up parking close to the entrance where it can be overseen.

### Landscaping

A planting scheme will help link the building to its surroundings and in urban projects can help create a more welcoming appearance to the entrance environment. Suitably selected shrub planting will provide a barrier to the building face, deter vandalism and give more privacy and security to glazed accommodation. All new planting will need initial barrier protection.

Parking and landscaping are covered in detail in a separate Guidance Note.

**The building**

**Accommodation**

Each location has individual requirements but 'core' accommodation for the smallest hall or community centre will include:

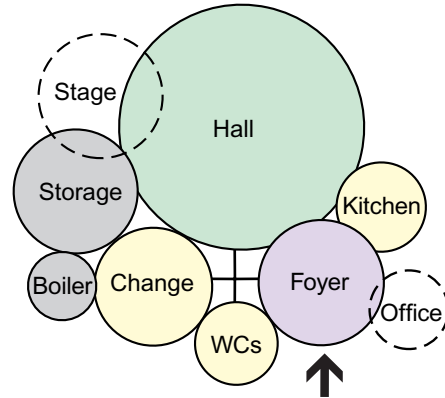
- main activity and assembly space
- entrance foyer
- equipment and furniture store
- kitchen
- toilets, including facilities for disabled people
- changing provision
- cleaner's store
- boiler or plant room.

This core accommodation can be expanded to include:

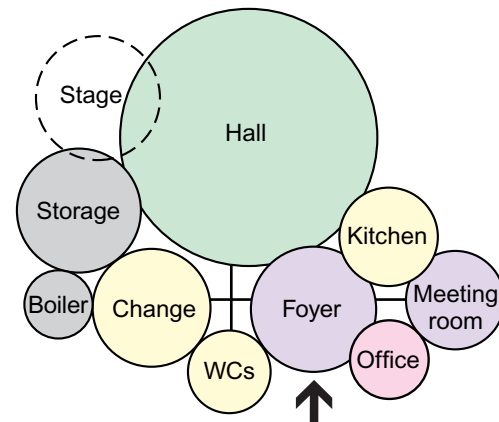
- an office
- changing or dressing rooms and showers
- more or larger activity spaces
- licensed bar
- permanent stage
- meeting or club rooms.

And, in certain situations:

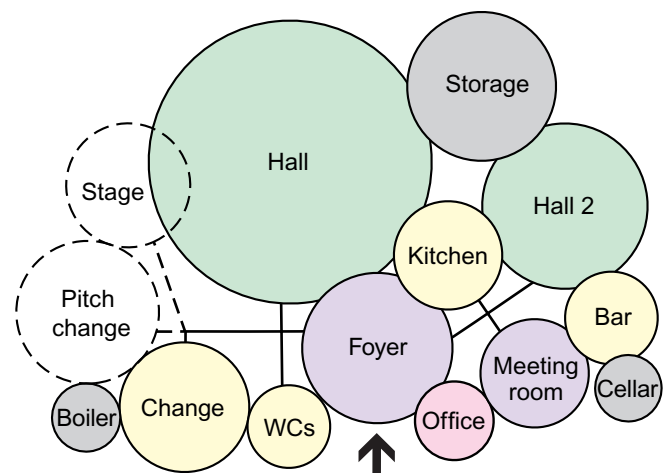
- grass pitch changing rooms
- fitness training room
- billiards and snooker room
- community health facilities
- daytime centre for the elderly
- information technology room
- village shop
- post office.



**Smallest viable community centre or village hall.**

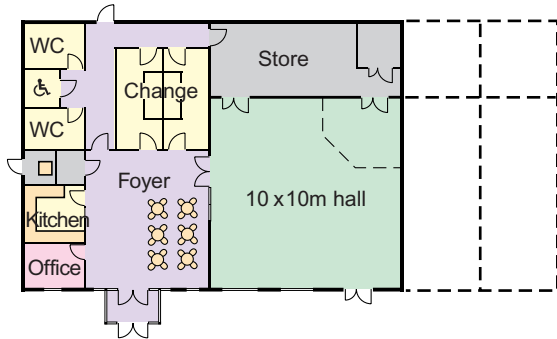


**Next stage up with the addition of a meeting room.**

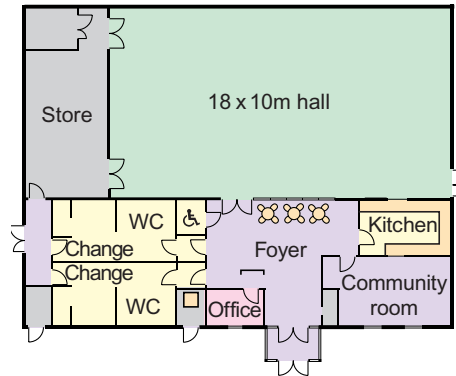


**Larger village or community centre with a second hall and changing for outdoor sport.**

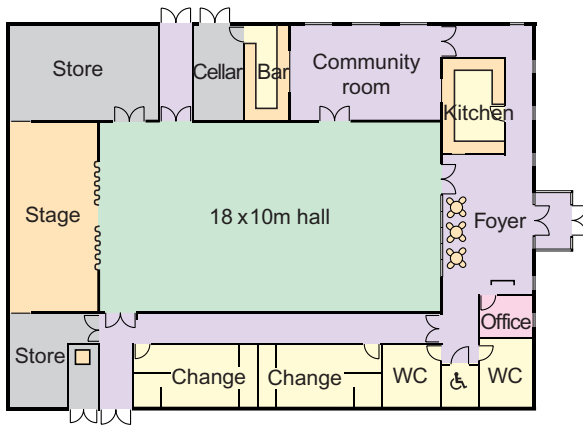
**Spatial arrangement diagrams for different scales of accommodation.**



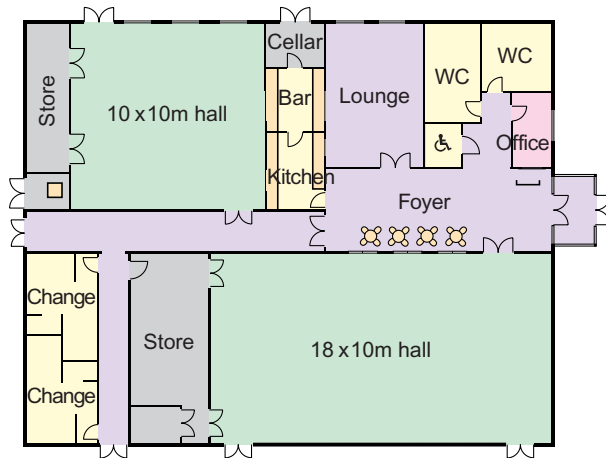
Smallest hall with the minimum support accommodation shown with potential extensions.



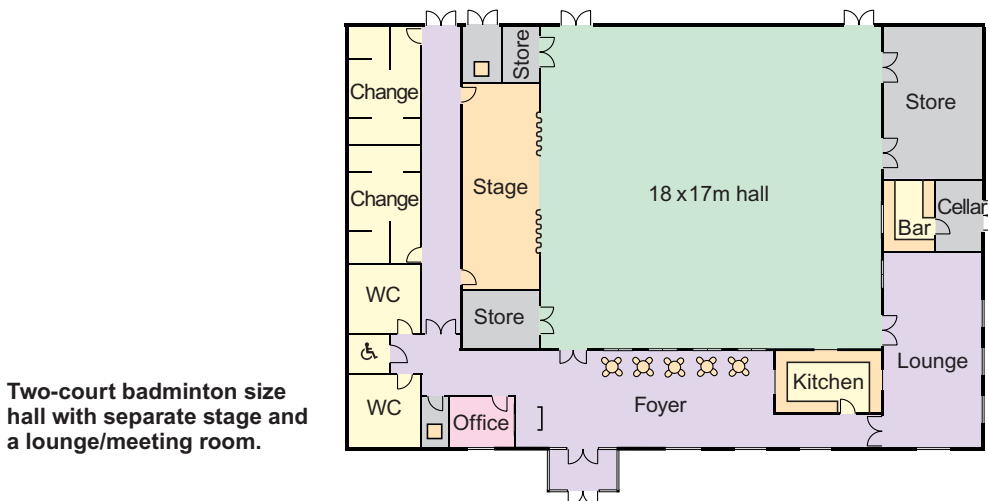
One-court badminton size hall with compact ancillaries including combined WCs and changing.



Symmetrical support accommodation around a hall with a separate stage.

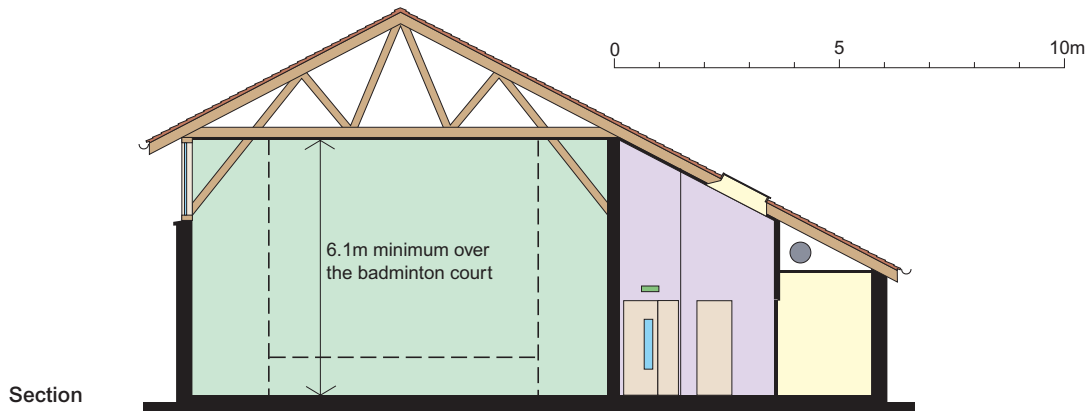


Centre with a second hall and a lounge/meeting room served by a bar as well as a kitchen.



Two-court badminton size hall with separate stage and a lounge/meeting room.

Five plans showing different sizes of hall planned in accordance with the principles set out in this publication.



Plan and section of an economically designed hall layout. The double set of corridor doors would allow the changing rooms to be used for stage productions.

## Planning

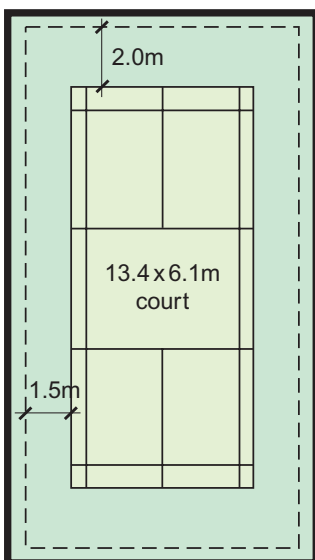
The proposed functions of the building must be carefully considered to achieve an efficient plan form that permits flexibility and concurrent occupation by different user groups – a drama rehearsal in the main hall and a simultaneous yoga class in a smaller, nearby room, for example.

Good acoustic separation is essential and is achieved through careful planning and specification of construction materials. Implementing separation is made more difficult by the need to arrange for the kitchen, and perhaps a bar, to serve two or more spaces. Lobbied or back-to-back double doors can help isolate noise.

Routes through the building should allow for reasonable segregation of user groups. On no account should the main hall or other public rooms be used for general access, and stores should always be directly accessible from the spaces they serve.

Summary of key internal planning issues:

- Plan the main activity spaces to conform to recognised sports dimensions.
- Include at least one meeting room. A main hall with supplementary rooms offers far more flexibility than a sub-divisible main space.
- Locate an office by the main entrance to overlook the building approach, foyer and main circulation.
- Locate toilets, including the disabled people's unit, close to the foyer.
- Allow storage space for pushchairs and coats close to the main entrance.
- Ensure wheelchair access throughout the building.
- Plan the kitchen with counters serving two or more public areas.
- Consider the benefits of linking adjoining assembly spaces with acoustically treated double doors.
- Locate equipment and furniture stores to be directly accessible to the spaces they serve.
- Site changing rooms so that they can serve the backstage area.
- If changing rooms are used for grass pitches at weekends ensure they are accessible for indoor use at other times and that supplementary changing is provided.
- Plan temporary bars to be adjacent to stores fitted with water and drainage services.
- Site and plan the building to allow later extension.



Badminton/short tennis

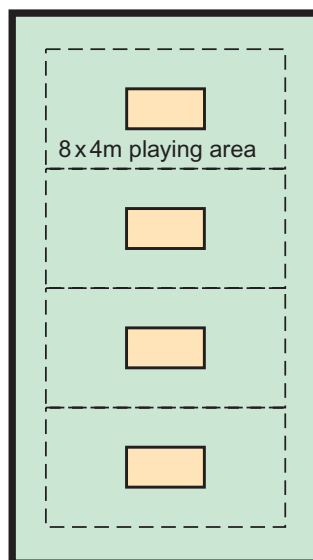
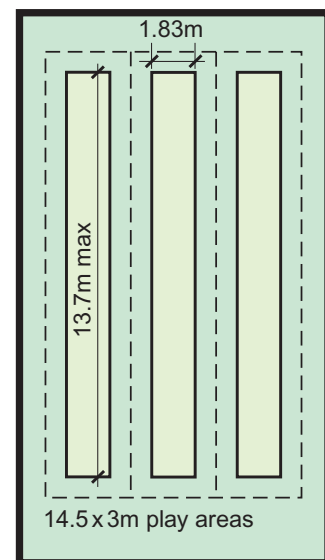


Table tennis – four tables



Short mat bowls – three carpets

The most popular sports in a one-court hall.



### Schools

New primary schools can provide opportunities to cater for community needs, especially in rural areas. Hall size will be increased over the normal educational standard and more storage will be required, but the school benefits from extra space and the community from a better quality building than might otherwise be achieved. A kitchenette, community room and extra adult toilets and changing will enable public facilities to operate independently from the rest of the accommodation.

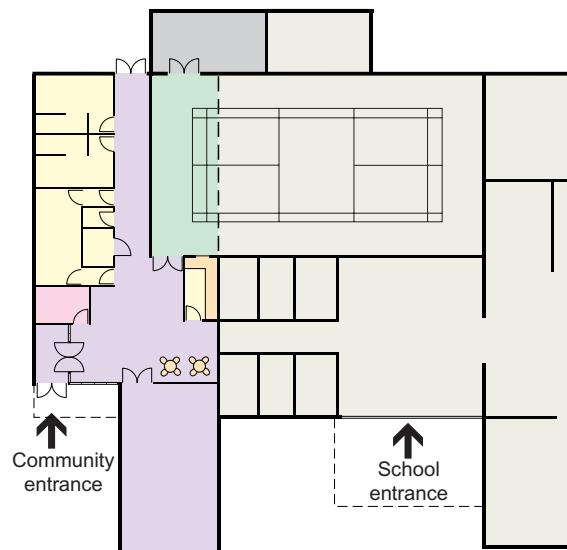
Converting a hall in an existing primary school is seldom practical as it is normally at the core of the accommodation. It may be possible to add a community room but the opportunities for indoor sport will be restricted. Issues to consider when examining opportunities for community use of new primary schools include:

- Community elements must be designed so that education use is not compromised.
- Hall size will need to be increased from the minimum 140m<sup>2</sup> to 180m<sup>2</sup> and 6.1m high.
- Plan to ensure that discrete school accommodation can be locked and secured outside school hours.



Hall in a rural primary school lengthened and heightened for community use.

- Increased parking may be necessary and should be lit for safe evening use.
- The community entrance must be well-signposted and lit, and must be welcoming.
- Provision for use by disabled people must be incorporated.
- Storage provision must be increased for adult-size equipment and furniture.
- A small kitchenette directly serving the hall will avoid encroaching on the school's catering arrangements.
- The need to provide adult toilets and changing to avoid shared use of children's accommodation.
- A community room 30–35m<sup>2</sup> that can be used by the school.
- Wall-hung equipment in the hall should be protected to ensure a safe, rectangular activity space.
- Separate metering of heating and lighting so that running costs can be properly apportioned.
- Outdoor surfaced play areas dimensioned for netball or tennis.



Adding extra length and height to the standard primary school hall provides opportunities for community use. Extra changing, storage, community rooms and, ideally, a separate entrance will be required.





## Building construction

Traditional domestic construction is often the most appropriate method for village and community halls. The clear span and height of the main hall are usually the only aspects that demand upgrading of normal domestic building techniques. Timber frame construction is worth considering as an alternative to load bearing masonry.

There is an extensive range of modular buildings on the market. Evaluation of these systems should cover durability, robustness and appearance as well as the maintenance requirements of their internal and external finishes. Some components may not be suitable for heavily used wet areas and acoustic separation of rooms may be inferior to purpose-designed buildings. Any structural constraints must be fully understood so that space standards are not compromised and costly modifications can be avoided.

The steel portal frame, a common economic form of construction for light industrial buildings, is sometimes considered for village and community halls but can produce a building of alien shape and scale unless suitably modified. Promised cost savings can disappear when structural components have to be encased and concealed.

Flat roofs should generally be avoided whatever construction method is used, and the number of external openings carefully controlled. The need to provide good quality of light and ventilation must be balanced against heat loss, summer heat gain and security. Carefully specified roof lighting can be used to illuminate and ventilate internal spaces.

### Main hall

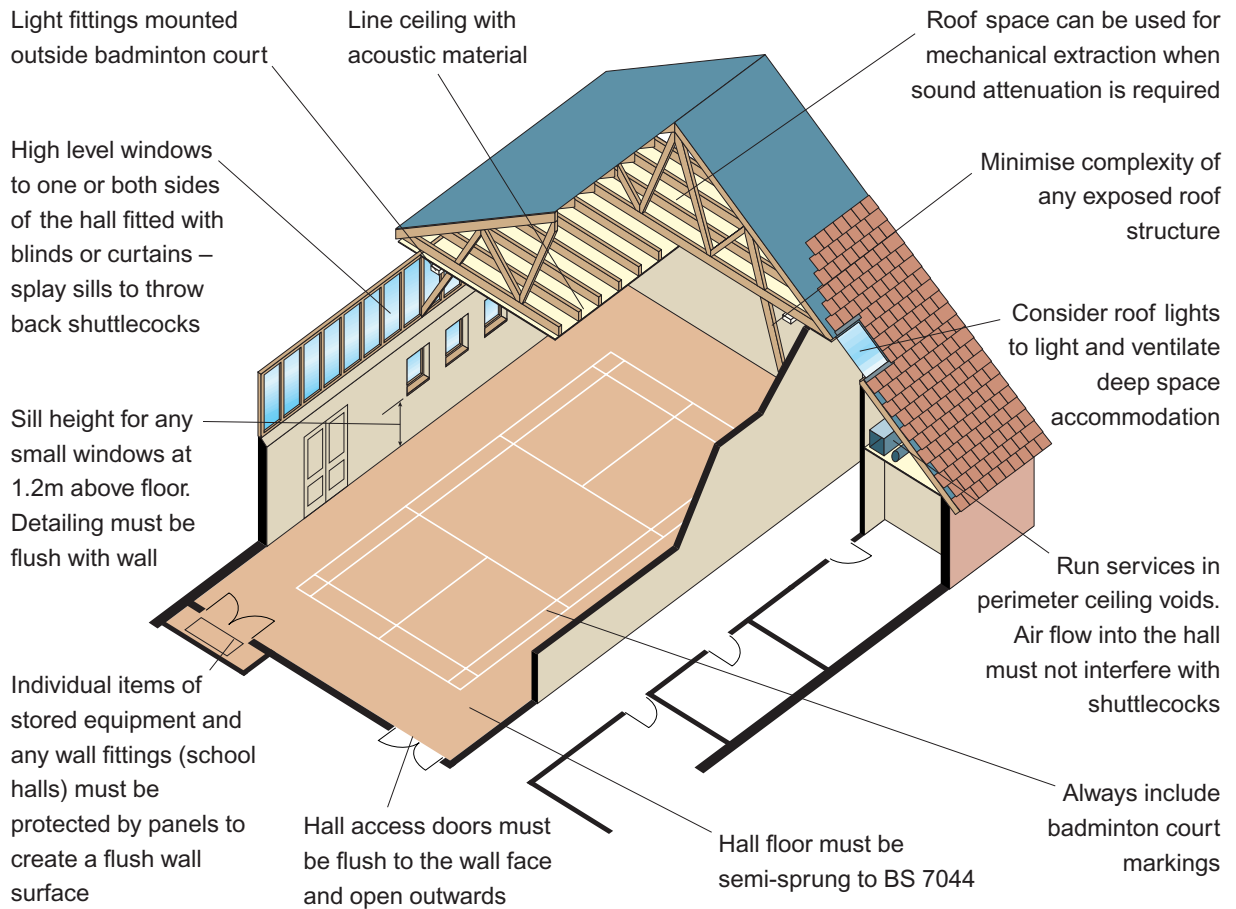
A one-court badminton hall 18 x 10 (17.6 x 9.1 min) x 6.1m minimum clear height accommodates the following range of activities as well as soft ball practice for a number of additional sports.

Sport/play	Other activities
Badminton	Clubs/societies
Short mat bowls	Concerts
Gymnastics	Conferences/meetings
Aerobics/keep fit	Dance/dance classes
Martial arts	Drama/films
Judo	Receptions
Yoga	Private functions
Playgroups	Auctions
Table tennis	Cheese and wine
Five-a-side (softball)	Women's Institute
Short tennis	Guides/scouts
Fencing	Discos

A two-court hall 18 x 17 (17.6 x 16.7 min) x 6.1–7.6m clear height will increase potential sports use and allow recreational mini-basketball, unihoc and five-a-side soccer. Additionally, audience capacity will be doubled from around 180 to over 300. This is usually the maximum size required, although three-court halls (27 x 18 x 7.6m) have been built. They are, however, small sports halls and invariably lack the flexibility for social and arts activities.

The recommended dimensions, based on the requirements of badminton, correspond closely to the size of many traditional halls. There is often a requirement for a stage, most usually in the traditional proscenium arch form. As a permanent feature a stage is an inflexible single-use area. The more economic alternative is modular platforms that create a stage of the required size in the required position, with or without surround curtaining.

The interior must be designed to be a suitable environment for all potential uses, with lighting that can be adapted to suit different activities and a safe and durable floor finish. It is recommended that hall finishes are specified to withstand games practice with soft balls only, as impact-resistant finishes and fittings severely



**A cutaway view of a typical hall with key design and specification notes.**

compromise the appearance of the hall for non-sports use. Hard ball games and practice should take place outdoors on a multi-use games area or in a purpose-designed sports hall.

**Floor**

- An ‘impact energy-absorbing’ floor as defined in British Standard 7044: Part 4 is essential for sports use and provides a safer surface for children’s play. The term refers to floors that deflect over a given area rather than simply beneath the point of applied pressure.
- Semi-sprung beech, beech and maple veneer and various composition and synthetic surfaces can meet the criteria set out in the British Standard. This subject is covered in detail in a separate Guidance Note.

- The surface must be durable and warm with some slip for sport and fitness exercises, but must not be hazardous when wet from food or drinks spillage.
- Badminton court lines are normally the only permanently applied markings – these are also appropriate for short tennis.

**Walls**

- Must be flush-faced, smooth and impact-resistant. Fair-faced or plastered and painted brick or blockwork or robust timber or particle board linings are suitable materials. Any structural framing should protrude on the outside of the hall, never internally.
- A sound-absorbent finish can be used at high level to supplement the ceiling lining

when required. Alternatively some acoustic ‘tuning’ can be achieved by wall-hung, full-length curtains.

- Doors and low level glazing must be designed with safety in mind. Entry and external doors must open outwards. Internal doors between main spaces require vision panels. Frames and door leaves should be flush with the wall face or have splayed reveals to minimise the risk of injury.
- Fire escape doors should have recessed panic push bars or flush-mounted push pads.
- High-level side windows provide evenly distributed natural lighting. End glazing should be avoided, as it is a source of glare for players and audiences. Lower level glazing or glazed doorways must be detailed for safety, which may entail fitting foldback solid panels.
- Safety glazing will be required and blinds, curtains or shutters should be fitted for film, drama and discos.
- Wall colour must be light enough to create a bright interior but not so light as to require frequent redecoration or give insufficient contrast to shuttlecocks. A reflectance value of 50% is ideal.
- Fire extinguishers, sensors or other items of equipment should be recessed or mounted in the corners of the hall to minimise obstruction and possible damage.
- School halls sometimes have wall-hung, foldout PE equipment and may also have retractable roof fittings. Community use necessitates recessing wall equipment and concealing it behind flush door panels.

### Ceiling and roof

- Incorporate an acoustic lining as part of the construction. It is false economy to ignore acoustic performance in the initial design and this oversight will lead to unnecessary expense later on. A reverberation time of 1.2–1.5 seconds at mid-frequencies is recommended.

- Exposed roof structure can add interest to the hall and help avoid a bland appearance. Keep the design simple to limit junctions and surfaces where shuttles and balls could become lodged and which create cleaning difficulties.
- Ceiling-mounted light fittings will give the simplest form of even distribution but should be mounted outside the badminton court sidelines.
- Ceiling colour should be white – approximately 90% reflectance value to minimise contrast and glare from the light fittings, and to reflect light downwards from high level wall glazing.
- If there is a roof void above the hall it can be used to house mechanical extraction equipment where it is necessary to provide sound attenuation to limit noise spillage from the building.



External and internal views of an urban sports community centre with main hall, fitness room and two all-weather play areas.

**Small hall**

Supplementing the main hall with a restricted range of use. For sports, 9 x 9m or preferably 10 x 10 x 3.5m high is recommended and will accommodate the following activities:

- aerobics
- keep fit
- martial arts
- boxing
- table tennis (2)
- darts matches.

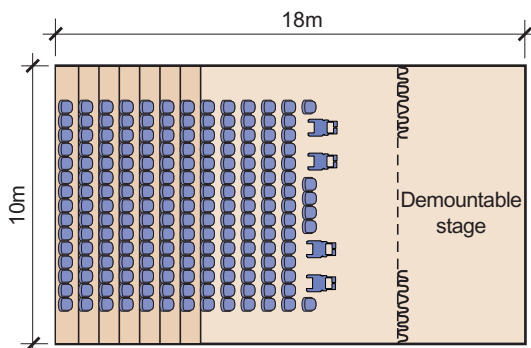
Other activities suitable for smaller halls include:

- drama workshops
- clinics
- club meetings
- luncheon clubs

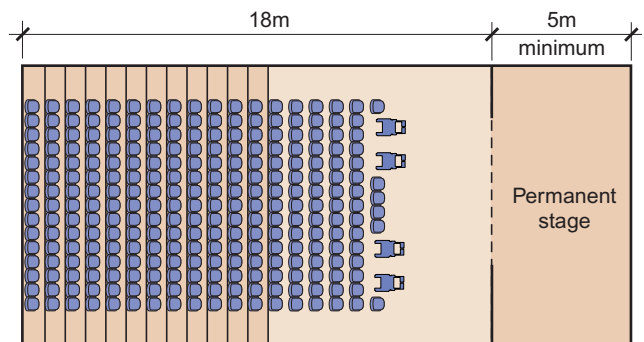
- playgroups
- craft shows
- whist drives.

Functional requirements are, in the main, the same as for main activity spaces. Safe design is vital as these rooms are often used by children:

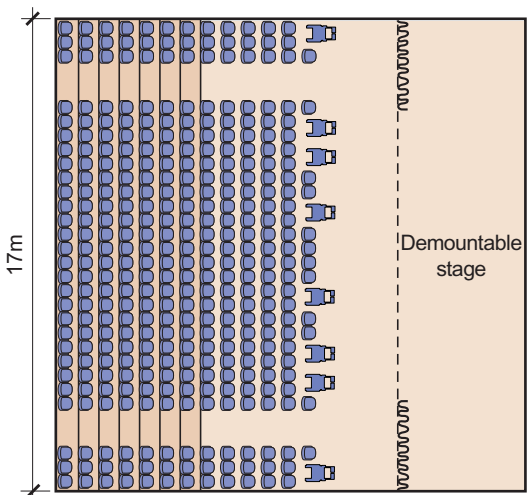
- floor: impact energy-absorbing
- walls: flush and smooth without projections – any low level heating panels must be flush-faced and sized for safe surface temperature
- windows: designed to give an even light spread and efficient ventilation
- ceiling: 3.5m should be maintained over the central part of the room and should incorporate acoustic treatment.



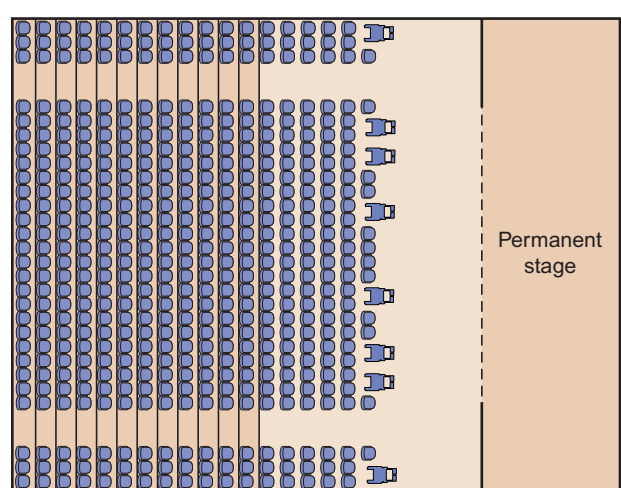
One-court hall – up to 186 seats



One-court hall with stage – up to 261 seats



Two-court hall – up to 356 seats



Two-court hall with stage – up to 496 seats

**Seating arrangements in one- and two-court halls with temporary or permanent stages.**



## Storage

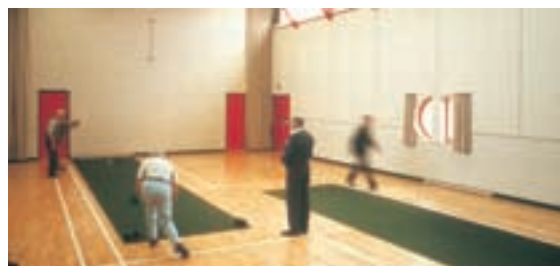
Each multi-purpose room requires its own store for sports and play equipment and furniture. This is usually an open-plan space fitted with shelving but can include secure compartments for individual clubs' or playgroups' equipment. A fire-protected store with smoke detector and alarm may be required for certain items such as plastic foam mats.

- **Main hall:** generous storage is essential for a full range of activities. The minimum dimension for a badminton-sized hall is 40m<sup>2</sup> and more space may be required for stage props and other equipment. Doors must be wide enough to transfer the largest items. Consider incorporating a built-in sink and drainer to back up a temporary bar installation.
- **Second hall:** 10% of the floor area as a minimum requirement. Area can be saved and duplication avoided if both halls share a common store. Space will be used more efficiently if the floor is marked out for larger items of equipment.
- **Meeting and club rooms:** if there are alternative uses provide a store either in or close to the room.
- **Kitchen:** fitted low and high level units, some lockable, are generally all that is required.
- **Bar:** a permanent bar requires its own secure store with cold-water service and a wash-down gully.
- **Cleaner's store:** usually grouped with toilets or changing rooms and equipped with shelving and a bucket sink. Allow space for replacement items such as toilet rolls and lighting tubes and bulbs.
- **Refuse:** bins, empties and crates need to be secured in a compound that is usually located outside the building. Refuse vehicles should have direct access to the compound.
- High level or attic storage space can sometimes be utilised but access must comply with health and safety requirements.

The following table identifies some of the items that must be stored for a typical main hall:

Activity/function	Equipment
Badminton	Net and posts
Floor gymnastics	Crash mats
Judo	Crash mats
Martial arts	Crash mats
Table tennis	3 or 4 folding tables
Short tennis	Net and posts
Short mat bowls	2 or 3 roll-out carpets, mats and fenders
Demountable stage	Modular stage blocks
Banquets/displays	Folding tables
Seating	150+ stacking chairs

Storage will also be required for small items of sports equipment, clubs' and playgroups' individual equipment and the drama group's props and curtains. Crash mats must be stored in a separate one-hour rated enclosure vented to the external air and equipped with a smoke detection system.



**Bowls and badminton are the most popular hall sports. These two similar halls have excellent window and lighting arrangements.**

### **Foyer**

A foyer is essential, even for the smallest centre. This should be a comfortable meeting and assembly space where club and community notices can be displayed, a telephone located and giving access to toilets and the main hall.

The entrance should take the form of a draft lobby floored with barrier matting and must allow unimpeded access for wheelchairs. Storage space for pushchairs should be provided off the circulation area and separate cupboards for coats may be required.



**Disabled user access must be provided throughout the building.**

### **Office**

In rural locations day-to-day management is normally via a rota of voluntary keyholders supplemented when necessary by paid, possibly part-time staff. In all but the smallest facilities some form of staffing will normally be required to take bookings, collect fees, supervise volunteers and ensure that the building is safe and secure.

An office is often included as a base for staff, a reception and bookings point, a records store and a location for the master heating and lighting controls and fire alarm board. Alternatively a reception desk or kiosk backed by lockable storage cupboards may be sufficient. In either case location should be in or off the foyer with views to the building forecourt and into the main circulation space.

### **Meeting and club rooms**

These are smaller rooms but often multi-functional. If used by playgroups the usual care will be required in the detailing. The only sports potential is for table tennis and then only if room dimensions are at least 8 x 4 x 3m high. Billiards and snooker tables require a dedicated room of 7 x 5.2 x 3m minimum.

### **Kitchen**

Locate the kitchen to directly serve the main hall and at least one other space. Whenever possible, position the kitchen on an external wall. Usual requirements are a large domestic kitchen equipped with four-ring cooker, double sink, fridge, freezer, microwave oven and possibly a waste disposal unit. A separate washbasin must also be included. Design should permit:

- Sufficient space between fittings for several volunteers to work simultaneously. The design must be suitable for use by outside caterers at specific events.
- Fitting heights and space standards to suit helpers in wheelchairs.
- Serving hatches with inward opening foldback doors and an uninterrupted surface to prevent spillage.
- Robust, low level shelving beneath the servery worktop if the kitchen is to double as a temporary bar.
- Provision of mechanical air extraction.
- Easily cleaned surfaces that minimise impact noise and a non-slip floor finish.
- Direct access to refuse bins.

### **Bar**

A licensed bar can generate revenue to help offset running costs but may involve the appointment of extra staff. Additionally, increased security measures will be necessary throughout the building. Provision of a permanent bar can infringe charitable status so must be carefully assessed in the business planning process.



Local breweries may assist with fitting out costs. Temporary bars with an occasional licence are often the most practical answer for smaller halls.

## Toilets

Plan male, female and disabled people's toilets close to the entrance foyer and consider the need for adjoining coat hanging space. The following figures taken from BS 6465: Part 1 1994 can be used as a guide:

### Female

- 2 WCs for up to 50 persons
- 3 WCs for up to 100 persons
- 1 WC for each additional 40 persons
- 1 washbasin plus 1 per 2 WCs.

### Male

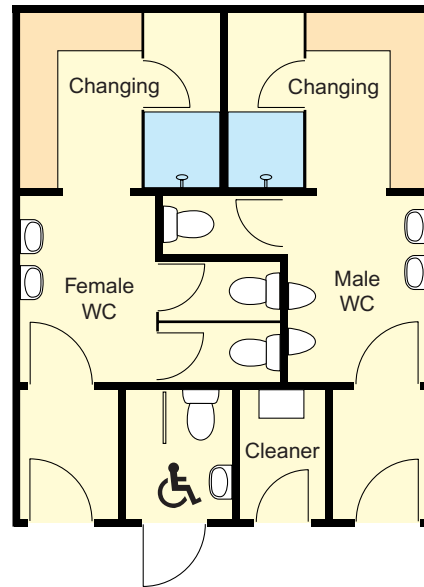
- 1 WC for up to 250 persons
- 1 WC for each additional 500 persons
- 2 urinals for up to 100 persons
- 1 washbasin per WC plus 1 per 5 urinals.

There should be at least one toilet for wheelchair users. Minimum dimensions for a unisex disabled people's unit are 2.0 x 1.5m. Increase size to 2.5 x 2.0m for an integral shower and changing bench. The door must open outward. A separate Guidance Note covers disabled requirements in detail.

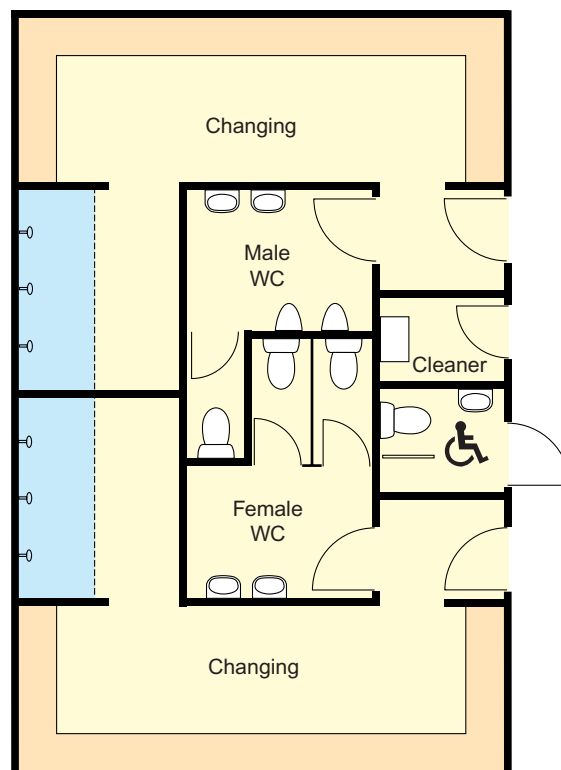
In addition there can be a requirement for:

- Children's toilets arranged off a room to be used for playgroups. Fittings will be of reduced size and there should be a nappy changing surface. Alternatively, provide nappy change in the disabled people's WC.
- A separate WC cubicle and washbasin in each changing room for use of players and performers.

All surfaces must be durable and easily cleaned. Cantilever basins mounted on a duct to conceal pipework are most easily maintained. If soap dispensers are required they can be located between basins.



Nominal changing provision accessed through the toilet area – acceptable only in the smallest schemes.



Another compact arrangement but main toilets could be provided separately where changing also serves as dressing rooms for stage productions.



### Changing rooms

Buildings with main and secondary halls require between six and 12 changing spaces located close to a backstage area for male and female sports users and performers. Increased provision can be considered if there are adjacent tennis courts and will be needed if netball or cricket teams use the facilities or if there is an all-weather, multi-games area. Where there are grass pitches provide separate team-sized changing rooms.

Showers should be allocated on the basis of one for every six changing spaces for indoor use, and one for three to four changing spaces for outdoor sports.

Changing should be designed with adequate space for wheelchair access and with 0.45m deep benches cantilevered from the wall to ease floor cleaning. Allow 0.5m width of bench per person. Minimum plan dimensions are 2.5m benchback to benchback or 1.5m benchback to wall face.

Screened entrances are essential and showers and dry-off areas must be located at the far end of the changing rooms. Lockers are normally only required in urban locations or where there are multi-use outdoor facilities.

Finishes must be robust and easily cleaned. Daylighting will brighten up these small spaces but mechanical ventilation is essential for the showers. Changing room design is covered in more detail in a separate Guidance Note, *Pavilions and Clubhouses*.



A recently built village hall with an external form and finishes to suit its rural location.

### Environmental services

High levels of comfort are essential to ensure full utilisation of the facility. People will not be encouraged to leave their homes in inclement weather or on dark evenings if they have to face a poorly heated and ventilated or gloomy environment.

Flexible response heating, lighting and ventilation systems are needed for activities ranging from strenuous to sedentary, some requiring high lighting levels and others only background lighting.

Parts of the building will attract only intermittent use so separate heating circuits should be considered and automatic controls deployed to ensure that systems are turned down or switched off when accommodation is unoccupied.

### Heating

- A low-pressure hot water system fed from a central gas-fired boiler provides the best combination of flexibility and economy. Oil is an alternative on sites where gas is unavailable.
- Main hall heat sources need to be visually unobtrusive and deliver comfort conditions to these relatively high spaces. Under floor heating systems, ducted warm air or radiant panels above door head height are generally the most effective solutions.
- Pipe circuits in buildings with a central boiler should group together compatible zones. In schools or sports centres the community content should be zoned and metered separately.
- Electric convector or radiant heating is inexpensive to install but can incur high running costs even when operated with sophisticated controls.
- Master controls should be in a secure place by the final exit from the building.
- Whatever form of heating is used it is essential to have high levels of insulation and a well-sealed building envelope. The entrance doors should incorporate a draft lobby to help retain the thermal capacity.

### Lighting

- A presence detection system should be used throughout the building for all primary light sources. Time clock or sensor control will be required for external illumination.
- The main and small hall will need an overall lighting system and will benefit from secondary ‘decorative’ lighting.
- Main hall lighting must not be mounted directly over the badminton court. Compact fluorescent fittings provide the best combination of economy, good colour rendering and ease of control.
- When it will be used for drama productions ensure the hall is equipped with power points located for temporary stage lighting installation.
- Emergency lighting will be required.

### Ventilation

- Arrange windows to provide efficient ventilation with adequate security. Consider the benefits of controlled cross-ventilation throughout the building.
- Natural ventilation should be used wherever possible but kitchens, toilets, changing

rooms and showers must have mechanical extraction.

- Fans and ductwork may have to be extended to the public areas if noise spillage from open windows is likely to be a problem.
- Fit changing room showers and the kitchen with humidistat switching to ensure proper ventilation with over-run.

### Power

- Residual current circuit breakers should be specified for safety and guarded sockets are required where playgroups meet.

### Water services

- Usually, water demand is low except when showers are included. Individual water heaters or a multi-point heater can offer economies over stored hot water supplied from a central boiler.

### Protection

- Lightning protection may be advisable in certain rural locations where the isolation and height of the hall may make it vulnerable to lightning strikes.

Space	Temperature °C	Illuminance lux	Air change rate per hour
Main hall	12–20	300–400	1.5–3.0
Second hall(s)	18–21	300	1.5–3.0
Lounge(s)	21	200	
Foyer	18	200	
Office	21	500	
Bar	21	100–200	
Bar store	10	100	
Kitchen	18	500	20
Equipment store	10	100	
Changing rooms (toilets)	20–21	100	6–10

Summary of typical service performance levels.

- Electronic security sensors and alarms are appropriate on some sites, particularly where alcohol is stored. Proper fire protection must be included.
- Windows may require additional protection. Electrically operated external roll-down shutters offer the most effective security. However, their appearance when the building is closed must be carefully considered.

### External play areas

#### Playground

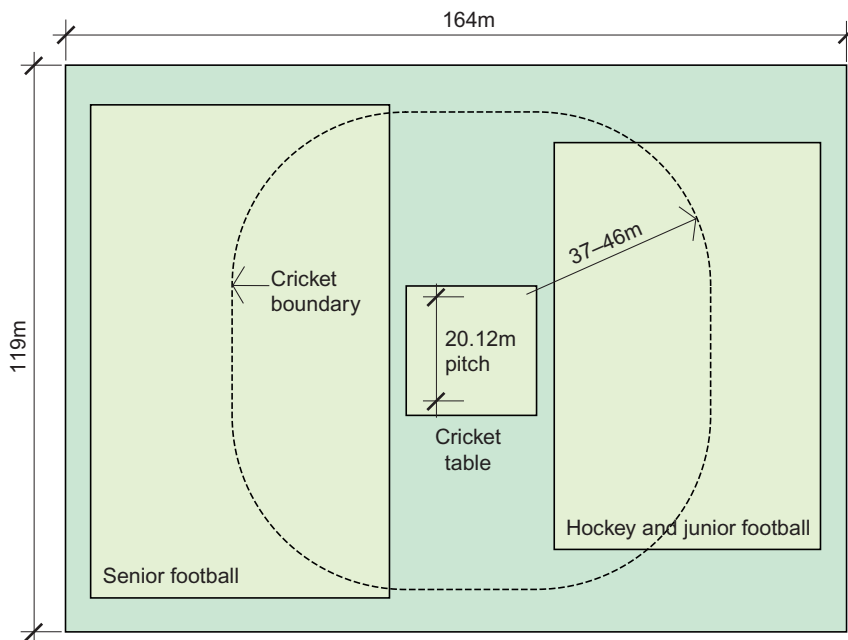
- Securely fenced and safely surfaced play area on the sunny side of the building approached from the room where playgroups meet. Ensure that some sun shading is incorporated in the design.
- Safe detailing is most important, especially around the access doors and thresholds. Make sure windows cannot be opened into the path of children.

#### Multi-use games area

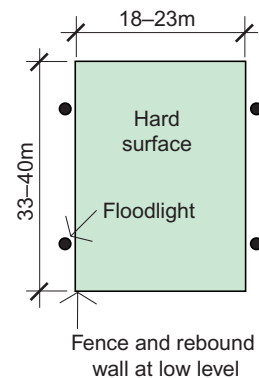
- A tennis court-sized, fenced, all-weather play area greatly extends the scope for sport and takes the more robust activities outside the building. It should be linked to the changing exit by a paved route suitable for wheelchairs and will benefit from floodlighting if planning conditions permit.
- An external equipment store can be incorporated into the building accommodation where it will be more secure and less obtrusive.

#### Grass pitches

- Good drainage is essential and correct orientation, around a north/south axis desirable. Include separate team changing rooms and officials' rooms. The sizes and construction of grass and synthetic playing surfaces for sport are covered in detail in separate Guidance Notes.



Typical layout of cricket field and winter games pitch.



#### A floodlit, fenced games area

- Suitable for:
- Five- and six-a-side soccer
  - Netball
  - Six-a-side hockey
  - Short tennis
  - Basketball
  - Roller skating

#### Dimensions for pitches.



**A semi-sprung hardwood floor is ideal for sport and play.**

Sport England aims to lead the development of sport in England by influencing and serving the public, private and voluntary sectors. Our aim is:

**more people involved in sport**

**more places to play sport**

**more medals through higher standards of performance in sport**

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© Sport England, January 2001  
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Sport England is the brand name of the English Sports Council which is the distributor of Lottery funds to sport.

Design concept by GDA Creative Solutions  
Produced by NBA Tectonics  
Printed in England by the Westside Group



Ref: 1038  
£10  
ISBN 1 86078 130 6