

documents. The steering group produced a Sustainability Appraisal, Scoping report and Equality impact analysis, which contains a broad range of statistics and information that helped to identify issues for the Parish. This information is provided in separate supporting documents.

### **Consultation on initial draft and the steps to the final plan**

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During May 2014 two further drop-in sessions were held to present the initial draft policies and consult the community on their views, the feedback received was very positive. The steering group also consulted both the parish and B&NES council on the initial draft and the combined feedback from the drop in events, parish and B&NES council's was fed back to the working parties and a second draft of the policies was produced.

This draft was validated, checked for robustness and compliance with the Core Strategy by B&NES in September 2014, before being distributed to every household in the parish in November 2014 for formal consultation, when feedback was invited, both at public engagement events held within the plan area, by email and by written submission, the full Neighbourhood Plan was made available for inspection at Chew Valley Caravan Park and members of the steering group were available to visit people in their own homes by appointment.

## **The Neighbourhood Plan Vision**

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As detailed in the Stowey Sutton Parish Council policies and Stowey Sutton Character Assessment (2013) the community wants Stowey Sutton to continue to thrive as vibrant and distinctive village's, to continue to respect and reflect the views of its community, to evolve and expand whilst retaining their unique and distinctive character, and to provide an outstanding quality of life for current and future generations of residents.

### **Structure of the Plan**

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The Neighbourhood Plan sets out:

- The Vision and Objectives for the future of Stowey Sutton
- The Neighbourhood Plan Strategy – Sustainable Development for the Whole Community – setting out the broader aims of the Plan's approach.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Policies – Providing the local policy framework for managing new development so that it contributes to the vision, aims and strategy for the District.

### **Objectives**

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- Delivery of a housing growth strategy tailored to the needs and context of Stowey Sutton
- Sensitive development which protects and enriches the landscape and built environment

- Sustaining and improving local facilities for existing and new residents
- Strengthening and supporting economic activity
- Seek on-going improvements to transport, to utility infrastructure and to digital connectivity
- Prioritise local distinctiveness in every element of change and growth
- Protect green spaces, the landscape and support nature conservation
- Involve local people in an ongoing basis in the process of plan-making, monitoring and delivery of development.

**The Parish Council and community will deliver this by:**

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- Encouraging a thriving and prosperous community that delivers a high quality of life for all its residents
- Promoting a distinctive and flourishing local economy that exhibits vitality and dynamism
- Supporting measured, proportionate, timely and sustainable development to meet local requirement
- Endorsing policies that have a positive effect on the environment, including those that remove or minimise flood risk, mitigate climate change and reduce our carbon footprint

- Maintaining the high quality natural environment with its protected wildlife interests

## **Sustainable Development for the Whole Community**

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Sustainable development is about positive growth – making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. These three dimensions constitute what is sustainable in planning terms.

- Economic – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy
- Social – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities
- Environmental – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment

To achieve this, a thoughtful and innovative approach is required, which works more positively; with residents, landowners and developers taking a continuing interest in the future of the villages. This is the approach adopted in the Plan and on the basis of this the Parish will look to engage positively with the statutory planning process to guide future development, within the context defined by the B&NES Core Strategy for an RA1 settlement.

People living in Stowey Sutton appreciate the special qualities the villages