

- 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:

- 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

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

possesses. It is a great place to live and in accommodating housing growth it will be vital that the qualities which make Stowey Sutton so successful are protected. Current residents accept that more people will want to come and live in Stowey Sutton and this is important to any thriving and evolving community.

This Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable development which is in accordance with the B&NES RA1 criteria and any new build in Stowey Sutton needs to be carefully managed in terms of scale, design and character to protect the qualities of Stowey Sutton which make it special.

This next layer of growth for the villages must create developments of quality which contribute to the character of the village and which provide local benefit.

Strategy

The heart of the villages will be prioritised as a thriving centre for local shops services and community infrastructure. Sustaining local businesses and improving local facilities is a key plan priority. Local community facilities will be supported.

Housing growth is to be accommodated in a sensitive way and the strategy for housing growth is explained later in this document (See Housing and Development policies).

Important green spaces are to be protected as are strategic views within the Parish and into and out of the villages

of Stowey and Bishop Sutton (Important views are referenced in the Character Assessment Appendix E). Green wildlife corridors are promoted around the parish.

The Plan is also positive about new employment development of an appropriate scale, within the parish.

Improved walking and cycling connections are promoted, linking the villages of Stowey and Bishop Sutton to local facilities, as well as to Chew Valley Lake via new footways.

As a longer term aspiration improvement to public transport within the parish and wider Chew Valley is highlighted as an opportunity to provide a sustainable link to Bath and Bristol, particularly to improve employment opportunities.

Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Implementation

The Neighbourhood Plan will be delivered and implemented over a long period by the Parish Council and other stakeholders and partners. It is not a rigid “blue-print” and provides instead a “direction for change” through its vision, objectives and strategy. Flexibility will also be needed as new challenges and opportunities arise over the plan period. In this respect reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan periodically will be crucial.