

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.

There will be three strands of activity which will direct delivery and each is important in shaping Stowey Sutton in the months and years ahead.

These comprise:

- The statutory planning process, will direct and manage private developer and investor interest in the Parish in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan and the wider Local Authority and National Planning Policy Framework.
- Investment in, and management of, public services, assets and other measures to support local services and vitality and viability for the village. In the context of the prevailing economic climate and public funding there is a recognition that public investment in the village will be challenging to secure.
- The voluntary and community (third) sector will have a strong role to play particularly in terms of local community infrastructure, events and village life. This sector will play a stronger role in the future.

In terms of the key areas of action the following summarises the Parish Councils approach to delivery and implementation.

Housing Growth:

The Parish Council will work with landowners and the Local Authority to deliver infill growth over the B&NES Core Strategy Plan period.

Local Character:

The Parish Council will work with residents, owners of land and buildings, and other stakeholders to bring back into economic use vacant properties, especially those which make a positive contribution to the character of the area.

Local Facilities:

The Parish Council will work with local organisations and the B&NES Council to improve facilities and services for local people.

Local Economy:

The Parish Council will encourage businesses to improve local employment opportunities. The creation of more individual retail units within the Parish will be encouraged.

Transport and Communication:

The Parish Council will work to find ways to improve road safety, and address speed and parking issues. Investigate with stakeholders the possibility of bringing High speed Broadband to the community.

Landscape and Environment:

The Parish Council will work with stakeholders to ensure that wildlife and the countryside surrounding the parish is protected.

The Stowey Sutton Neighbourhood Plan is a "living" document and as such will be reviewed in line with the evolving B&NES Core Strategy, in a community led approach, supported and enabled by the parish council.