

Appendix C

Infrastructure Assessment

Primary education

Bishop Sutton Primary school (www.bishopsuttonstantondrew.co.uk) is located in the centre of Bishop Sutton on the main A368. It is a federated school with Stanton Drew with one head teacher responsible for the federation. In 2012 the school was inspected by Ofsted and was deemed to be 'outstanding'

The school has a total pupil number of 147 with a pupil admission number (PAN) of 21. A predicted population peak means that the pupil admission number for September 2014 will be 24 which is above the PAN.

The school has a single form entry with split year groups in each class all accommodated in five classrooms. This means that children are taught in mixed year groups.

Two classrooms are in the original Victorian school building with the other three in temporary classrooms. The additional housing of 76 which has already been granted planning permission in Bishop Sutton has led B&NES to agree a Capital fund programme for three additional classrooms which will replace the temporary classrooms. Once complete the additional classrooms would bring the pupil admission number to a maximum of 30 children, and the total school pupil number to 210.

The scoping and design work has formally begun (May 29th 2014). Once the scoping, design and costing report is completed B&NES will need to formally consider and approve the cost from the capital build funding.

Assuming the proposed development of the school goes ahead this will be the maximum development on the current site and it will not be feasible to increase either the physical building space or the total pupil size beyond the proposed total pupil number of 210.

Secondary education

A member of the steering group discussed with the head teacher of Chew Valley school (www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk) Young people attending the local authority secondary school are transported by coach to Chew Valley School which is approximately 2.5 miles away in a neighbouring village.

The school has a catchment area of 120 square miles of the Chew Valley and has a total pupil number of 1200, this includes 200 in the sixth form. The pupil admission number is 196 and this will include pupils from beyond the catchment area. This provides flexibility for year seven entries, however capacity for older pupils joining later years is very limited. The school was judged to be outstanding by Ofsted in Sept 2011

Pre-school

A member of the steering group met with representatives of the Bishop Sutton Pre School (www.bishopsuttonpreschool.ik.org) on 14-10-2014. Currently the pre-school provision is in the Methodist Hall, space is restricted and with the additional housing it is anticipated that places will be oversubscribed leading to the need for larger accommodation and/or additional sessions.

For a variety of reason including funding, space, health and safety and regulatory requirements (ref Public School Build Consultation Event 09-10-2014, fiona.randle@Bathnes.go.uk) new build on the school campus does not appear to be an option.

Doctors Surgeries

A member of the steering group spoke to the Practice Managers at West Harptree Surgery and The Chew Valley Surgery (Chew Magna/Chew Stoke) on the 16th July 2014 to research local health and capacity issues.

There is no GP surgery within Stowey Sutton, both the practices at West Harptree and Chew Stoke (formerly Chew Magna practice) believed that there was no problem in expanding the supply of GPs appointments in response to increased pro rata population demand from the newly approved developments.

Funding for GPs is based on the number of registered patients so that increased numbers results in increased funding.

The main concern, raised particularly by the Chew Valley surgery was with the provision of 'back up' services, such as, District Nurses, Health Visitors Physiotherapists etc. Funding for these services is much less flexible than for GPs as it is fixed on a 5 yearly basis via B&NES and is difficult to increase in response to increasing demand.

A particular problem was quoted with Physiotherapist appointments as demand for these services had increased because of a change to the provision of hip and knee surgery in recent years.

Physiotherapy services are now required both before and after surgery but these appointments are now to be carried out in the community and not in hospital as was the case previously.

Sewage

Wessex Water are responsible for sewage drainage. There is a pumping station for the Parish in Ham Lane to the north of Bishop Sutton. The capacity of this has recently been increased, Wessex Water have stated that the enhanced capacity will be sufficient for the two housing developments already approved (76 houses).

Any further developments such as those developments received but not approved would require further review and would probably require additional pumping capacity (*see page 119*).

Requests made as part of recent unapproved development applications for surface water (storm) drainage to be diverted into the foul sewer have been rejected by Wessex Water due to a lack of capacity and the risk of overflow from the pumping station into the nearby Chew Valley Lake which is a major drinking water source for Bristol Water.

Water drainage

Rainfall on the plateau and Burlidge to the south of Bishop Sutton drains northwards to Chew Valley Lake passing through Bishop Sutton. Whilst below ground drains operate largely from the start of housing to the south of the Bishop at periods of heavy rainfall the drains are not adequate to take the volume of water and during heavy rains in 2012/13 and 2014 there has been flooding of roads and houses.

The Environment Agency at the end of 2013 produced mapping of risk of surface water flooding including river and reservoir risk (*see page 110*).

<http://watermaps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiyby.aspx?topic=ufmfsw#x=357683andy=355134andscale=2>.

This mapping clearly identifies those areas in the Parish which are at high risk and the EA advise the need for a flood risk plan to be in place.

Of particular concern is road flooding on Stitchingshord Lane which is the access road for two ongoing planning applications. It is imperative that this new authenticated mapping is used in considering any new planning application and costs of additional/new drainage is requested from prospective developers.

Broadband

The speed of broadband throughout the Parish is inadequate to support efficient business usage or home working and has resulted in a small number of small businesses leaving Bishop Sutton. Some concerns have been raised that when the approved housing developments of 76 houses are completed this will place an additional demand on an already poor service. No specific plans appear to be in place by BT to address these issues.

See Appendix K for evidence of broadband speed

Highways and Pavements

Bishop Sutton village is divided by the A368. The A368 is a busy route for lorries and commuters and the road through Stowey, (The Street) is a busy cut through route from the A368 to the A37 used by lorries and commuters.

A 30 mile an hour limit is set on both these roads which is often exceeded. The lack of a wide pavement suitable for pushchairs and disability transport on both roads is a major concern and a potential safety hazard. Crossing the A368 is necessary where pavements are located on one side and then the other adding to pedestrian safety concerns.

The narrowness of The Street and road subsidence above Stowey strongly supports the need for a 7.5 tonne weight restriction which is being pursued.

Phones

Mobile coverage can be 'patchy' phone lines into homes and businesses are at capacity and reliant on aging connection from Bishop Sutton to the Chew Magana exchange.

Electricity

At times of high demand there can be a fluctuation in supply.

Options considered within Housing and Development draft policies:

Support additional large housing developments considered but rejected due to already having received 76 houses which is beyond the 50 as identified for the Parish over the life of the Core Strategy. In addition the infrastructure is inadequate to support anything other than infill development.