

Appendix D

Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relationships between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.

Equality Impact Assessment is the systematic analysis of a policy or policies, in order to identify the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particular those with a protected characteristic.

“Protected characteristics” are defined by the Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

This document presents the outcome of the EQA of the draft Stowey Sutton Neighbourhood Plan.

Baseline Data

Unless otherwise stated the data source is the 2011 Census

In 2011 there were 1,361 people living in the Parish of Stowey Sutton

48.45% of these were male, and 51.65 % female.

Comparable figures for the UK were 49.3% male and 50.7% female

Age group comparison:

Age	Stowey Sutton	UK average
0 – 15 years	19.4%	18.9%
16 to 65 years	59.6%	64.8%
Older than 65	21%	16.3%

Stowey Sutton has a lower proportion of people whose day to day activities are limited a lot at 5.2% compared to all of BANES (7.0%) and the national average (8.3%) and a slightly lower

proportion of people whose day to day activities are limited a little 8.5% compared to Banes 9.1% and national average (9.3%).

The profile of ethnic origin for Stowey Sutton in 2011 was;

Ethnicity	Stowey Sutton	B&NES average	UK average
British White	96.1%	90.1%	80%
Other White	1.6%	4.5%	5.7%
Non-White	2.4%	5.4%	14.3%

These figures indicate that Stowey Sutton has a lower Non-white population than across Bath and North East Somerset and significantly lower than the national average.

Religion	Stowey Sutton	B&NES average	UK average
Christian	63.7%	56.5%	59.38%
Buddhist	0.8%	0.5%	0.45%
Hindu	0.00%	0.1%	1.25%
Jewish	0.1%	0.1%	0.49%
Muslim	0.3%	0.7%	5.01%
Sikh	0.0%	0.1%	0.79%
The five non-Christian religions comprise only 1.2% of Parish population compared to 8.26% in the UK as a whole			
0.1% were from other religions.			

26.6% of the population declared no religion and 8.4% did not state their religion.

Religious belief in Stowey Sutton is weighted towards Christianity and the proportion is higher than for Banes and slightly higher than the national average.

5.3% of the population in Stowey Sutton was aged 0-4 years, compared to 6.25% in the UK. This suggests the number of young families is slightly below that nationally.

The number of young people aged 10 to 15 years was 8.3% compared to 7.0% nationally and 6.6% in Banes, this is of importance when considering youth facilities.

In Summary Stowey Sutton has:

A higher proportion of old people than the national average.

A slightly higher proportion of young people in the 10 to 15 years age group than in the average for B&NES.

A much lower proportion of non-white persons than the national average.

A significantly lower proportion of persons with incapacity or with limitations on their day-to-day activities than nationally.

A much lower proportion of people who practice religions other than Christianity nationally.

Goals and Objectives of Stowey Sutton Neighbourhood Plan

The SSNP will provide a framework of policies and proposals for the future development of the Parish until 2029.

The Core Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset Council allocates "around 50 houses" over the next fourteen years to RA1 villages of which Stowey Sutton is one.

A total of 76 houses have already been granted planning permission in two developments which exceeds the RA1 allocation by 26. Two further planning applications for 41 houses have recently been refused, appeals may follow. (April 2014)

The Core Strategy was approved by the B&NES full cabinet in July 2014.

The infrastructure of the village including sewage, daily public transport, highways, primary schooling does not support high density future developments. Please refer to the sustainability/infrastructure supporting document.

Goals

1. To support and enhance the vitality of Stowey Sutton whilst also maintaining the character of both Bishop Sutton and Stowey.
2. To minimise and manage the impact of further development on the surrounding landscape, countryside and ecosystems.
3. To reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length of vehicle journeys.
4. To enhance prospects for employment including home working.

Goals 1 and 2 impact no differently upon persons with a protected characteristic than anyone else in the Community, both goals seeks to achieve environmental benefits for all community members.

Goals 3 and 4 have potential to benefit persons with protected characteristics such as a disability or mobility issues by reducing the need for cars, making village facilities more accessible, improving public transport to key villages or towns and by enhancing and improving local employment and home working opportunities.

The impact on specific policies

Age

The following policies will be of positive benefit to specific age groups:

SSCR01 To promote greater use of the recreation ground and play areas within the parish, improving facilities to meet the needs of users of all age groups, to provide and protect play facilities for children and young people including multi use of the recreation ground.

SSCR02 Provision of allotments for community use.

SSHD04 Creation of small one or two bedroomed low market cost housing to meet the identified local need.

SSHD05 Financial contribution with any new build to local infrastructure which includes schools, pre-school and recreation provision.

SSBE01 Using empty or no longer used business buildings to support further business enterprises.

SSBE04 Support and encourage home working.

SSBE05 To urgently explore the provision of faster broadband speed to support employment, home working and leisure use.

SSRT01 Improve availability of public transport links and provision through direction of 106 monies.

SSRT02 Improve provision of parking at retail facilities.

SSRT03 Improve existing footpaths through the village and parish, including safe and pedestrian friendly access.

SSRT04 To promote and provide the evidence for safe road crossings of the A368 specifically by the school entrance, retail area and other 'unsafe' crossing points.

Disability and Mobility

The following policies will have positive benefit:

SSBE04 and 05 Improve broadband speeds will be of particular benefit to residents with mobility restrictions by improving access to home based working as well as providing local employment in business units.

SSHD04 Smaller housing will assist residents wishing to downsize and reduce maintenance and garden size.

SSRT01 Improved public transport links will assist elderly, disabled and families with young children who do not have access to a car. Young people will also be able to travel independently to recreation/entertainment points and larger shopping areas

SSRT02 Improved parking at the main retail outlets will assist elderly, disabled and families with young children to shop locally.

SSRT03 and 04. Improving footpaths, pavements and working towards safe crossing points will assist elderly, disabled, wheelchair users and families with children in pushchairs.

Sex

Neither sex is disadvantaged by any of the policies and proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Race, Religion, Gender Re-Assignment, Sexual Orientation.

Discrimination in respect of these groups cannot be directly influenced by the Neighbourhood Plan. The policies and proposals within the Stowey Sutton Neighbourhood Plan support the inclusive vitality and future of the Parish and do not discriminate against these groups or individuals.

Conclusion

The Stowey Sutton Neighbourhood Plan is a strategic document which should lead to positive benefits for older people, disabled people, young people and children and those with limited mobility.