

Appendix Q

Community and Recreation Policies Background

National Planning Policy Framework Context

Paragraph 28 of the NPPF promotes the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, public house, places of worship etc. whilst paragraph 69 of the NPPF encourages social interaction within communities.

Proposed Community and Recreation Action Policies

SSCR01 Recreational Facilities

Promote greater use of the recreation ground and play areas within Parish, improving facilities to meet the needs of users of all age groups, including access to toilet facilities at the recreation ground when the village hall is closed. To be promoted using funding from CIL and grants where available.

Reason:

The Recreation Ground needs to encourage social interaction in accordance with Paragraph 69 of the NPPF. Several community groups have identified inadequacies in the current recreational facilities in the parish, causing many residents to travel to other facilities outside the village. A group of residents supported through the Parish Council is already working towards improvements to some of the play facilities for younger children, whilst another group have identified the problem with the lack of toilet facilities when the village hall is not available.

SSCR02 Allotments

Where the individual garden size of any development of five or more houses is smaller than the footprint of the actual building, excluding any hard surfaced parking, the Neighbourhood Plan will require specific contributions for the provision of allotments for community use. To be promoted from CIL and grants where available.

Reason:

To encourage recreational activities and provide a healthy & sustainable food supply, together with developing a better understanding of the food chain in younger residents.

Responses from the General survey

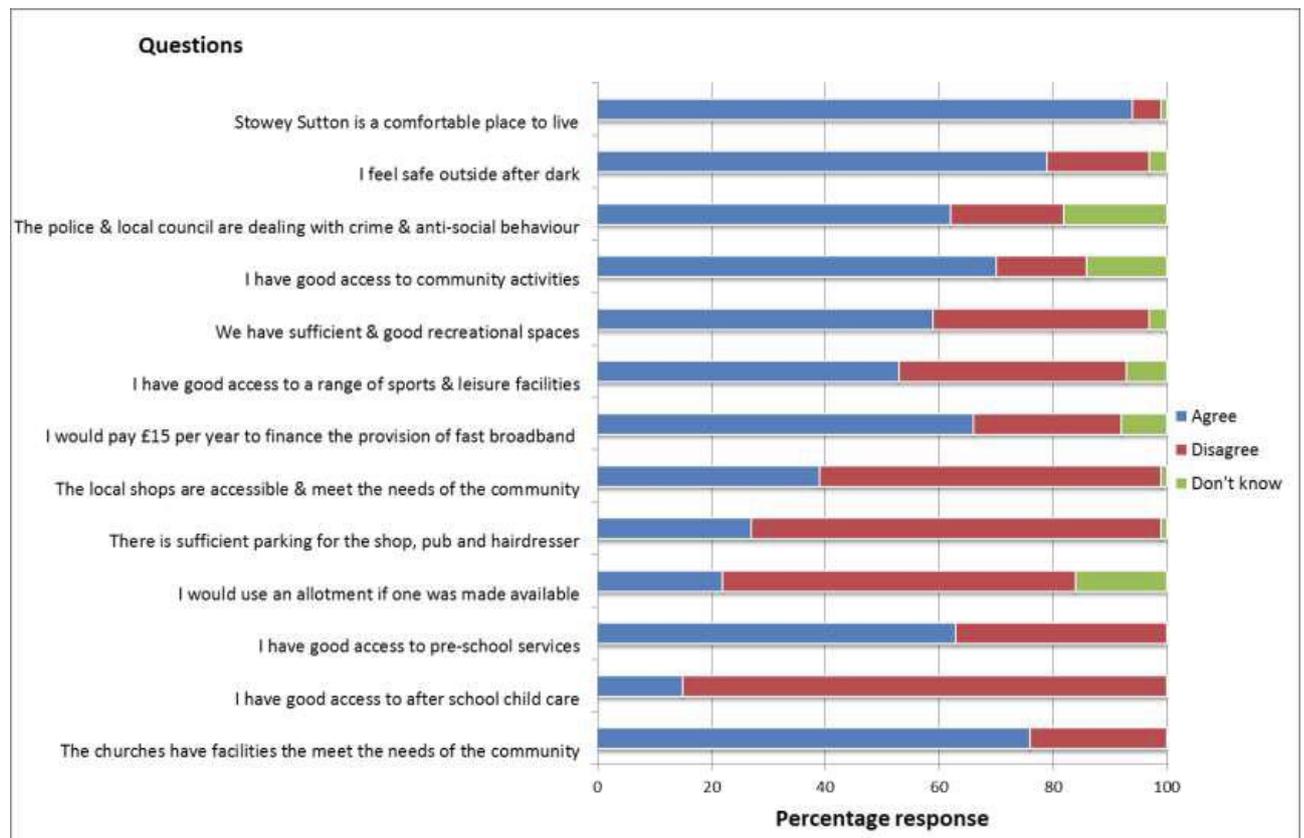


Figure 28 Community facilities response from general survey

In brief 94% of respondents consider Stowey Sutton is a comfortable place to live with 79% feeling safe outside after dark; 62% consider the police and local council are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour successfully.

70% of respondents stated they have good access to community activities, 59% considered they have sufficient and good recreational spaces and 53% felt they have good access to a range of sports and community facilities.

21% of respondents stated they would use an allotment if one was available which may not show strong support for this initiative. However, the vast majority of properties built in the parish before 1990 have sufficient garden space for growing fruit and vegetables whereas recent and current developments have much smaller gardens and it is likely that a significant number of residents in these properties would make use of an allotment.

Other survey questions in respect of pre and after school child care and church facilities generated much higher "Don't know" responses of between 33-54% therefore in interpreting responses to these questions only those who expressed an opinion have been included.

63% of respondents expressing an opinion considered there was good provision of pre-school services. There is currently no registered provision of group after school child care in the

village. There are 4 registered child minders in the parish, 3 of which are registered to look after primary school age children.

76% of respondents who expressed an opinion agreed that the churches have facilities that meet the needs of the community.

Specific improvements identified for the parish

Respondents were given the opportunity to identify specific improvements in the context of the future growth of the community. The following is a summary of responses:

Recreation

The majority of comments identified the need for improvements to existing play areas, although more recreation space & leisure facilities are also mentioned. Many respondents requested facilities for older children & teenagers, a new skate park was mentioned specifically by two respondents.

Schools

Both the pre-school & primary school in the village were deemed 'outstanding' at their last inspections and respondents were supportive of continuing improvement. Increasing the build provision and total pupil numbers at the primary school is to happen and is funded in full by B&NES Council, this is referred to in more detail within the sustainability appendix

A representative of the organisations listed below was interviewed to inform this part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Bishop Sutton AFC

Stowey Sutton Brownies

Sutton Theatre Club

Stowey Sutton WI

Bishop Sutton Badminton Club

Bishop Sutton Village Hall

Bishop Sutton Cricket Club

Community Police Officer

Bishop Sutton and Stowey Anglican Church

B&NES Mobile Youth Team

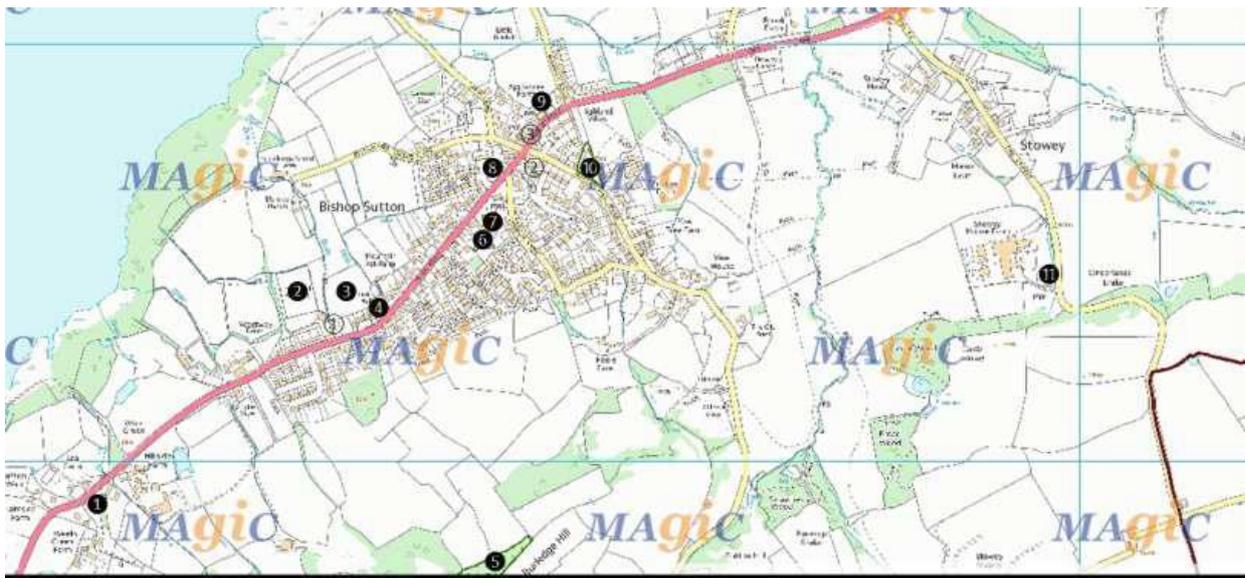
Bishop Sutton Methodist Church

Bishop Sutton Tennis Club

Bishop Sutton Mums and Toddlers Group

Bishop Sutton pre-school

Figure 29 Map of Community assets & facilities



Community Assets

- ① Wick Green
- ② Football Ground
- ③ Recreation Ground
- ④ Village Hall & Play Area

- ⑤ Burledge Common
- ⑥ Primary School
- ⑦ Holy Trinity CoE
- ⑧ Play Area

- ⑨ Methodist Church
- ⑩ The Batch Common
- ⑪ St Nicholas & St Mary CoE

Community Facilities

- ① Sutton Spice
- ② Red Lion PH
- ③ Post office & Stores

The Village Hall provides space for a wide range of meetings in conformance with paragraphs 28 and 69 of the NPPF. The main hall can accommodate up to 180, the lounge 20 and the upstairs Taylor room 50 people. There is also a well equipped kitchen, toilets and changing rooms for sports activities. Regular bookings include the Theatre Society, Bishop Sutton Mother and Toddler Group, Brownies, Badminton, Slimmer's World, Baby Clinic, Bridge, Yoga and Line Dance. The Hall is also used for occasional blood donor sessions and elections as well as private functions. The building is generally not let out on a Sunday to enable cleaning and maintenance to take place. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient capacity in the building to accommodate more people in the parish with new housing developments;

During the summer months, the Hall can get quite hot because of the south facing façade and a balanced mechanical ventilation system could be used to extract warm air from the roof of the building and replace with cooler air from the northern aspect of the building. There is potential for the installation of solar PV panels on the south facing roof.

The car park around the Village Hall is owned by the Parish Council and is at times a focal point for young people to assemble. This has led to sporadic complaints in respect of anti-social behaviour.

Playground to the rear of the Village Hall

A group of local residents circulated a questionnaire to young families in Bishop Sutton, all respondents supported the need for improved play provision/equipment at the village hall playground. Currently, families with children choose to travel to neighbouring villages to use better equipped and more child centred equipment.

The group of parents, with support from the Parish Council, are exploring designs and funding options to improve the play area.

With a growing population it is important that there is safe and good play provision within walking distance of the majority of families. This will add to a sense of community, improve social cohesion and offer a focal point within the village for children and young people.

The need for toilets to be available during times that the village hall is closed has been identified as a need.

Mobile Youth Team

The Mobile youth team visit Bishop Sutton on a Wednesday evening from 7 pm until 9pm with a bus in the car park behind the village hall. The target age range is 13 to 19 but the 11 to 25 age group with additional needs is also being worked with. Over the past 12 months, 52 individual young people have accessed the Mobile youth service in Bishop Sutton.

A second evening has recently commenced with funding via the Parish Council.

The youth workers plan and deliver programmes to meet the needs of the young people as presented to the service. Such programmes include healthy eating, food and nutrition, sexual health, drugs and alcohol education, internet safety. Young people's safety in relation to many issues is also a priority area of delivery. Sports, crafts and planned discussions are also on offer to all young people along with trips and residential experiences.

The youth service has qualified workers who will target individual young people who are experiencing transient difficulties in life and offer them an individual support programme which can include a range of other professionals.

The Mobile youth team also offers accreditation routes for young people including the Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN) awards, Skill me Up awards and specialist accreditation in First Aid, Food Hygiene and the British Red Cross.

Organisations using the Village Hall

Badminton

The morning Badminton Club in Bishop Sutton Village Hall is currently at full capacity and would not be able to expand due to it being a single court. The evening club currently has some vacancies for new members. With the housing developments within the parish more local people are could be drawn into the club. If in the future the club wanted more court space, it would be possible for the club to move to the Chew Valley Leisure Centre. At the present the Club's preference is to remain at the village hall with a single court.

Bishop Sutton Mums & Toddler Group

The Village Hall meets the needs of the group for a large hall with ample parking. The group is well attended and well equipped through parents' subscriptions. Parent helpers assist in setting up the toddler session and supervise on an ad hoc basis.

The already approved housing development in the parish is viewed positively as it is likely to increase attendance and hopefully, the number of parents prepared to help run the group.

Brownies

Although there is a Brownie Pack in the Parish there is a need for volunteers to support the group to ensure it continues. Neither Rainbows nor Guides are available in the Parish, the lack of volunteer helpers being cited as a reason for this.

There is only one Rainbows group in the Chew Valley (Chew Magna), which is oversubscribed with a very long waiting list. This is also the case for Beavers and Cubs, neither of which have a presence in the Parish.

Theatre society

The Theatre Society are happy with the current facilities; they are well supported with 50+ members and anticipate numbers increasing with the approved housing developments within the parish. Their one concern is the size of the village Hall not being sufficient for productions, with their shows selling out very quickly (but it's a problem they're delighted to have!).

Places of worship

The Church of St Nicholas and St Mary at Stowey, Holy Trinity Parish Church in Bishop Sutton and the Methodist Church in Bishop Sutton all provide community facilities for the parish in conformance with paragraphs 28 and 69 of the NPPF. Congregations have dwindled over recent years and it is increasingly difficult to find the money for the upkeep of these facilities. There is a need for catering and toilet facilities at both churches in Bishop Sutton and Stowey and neither church has car parking facilities.

Church of St Nicholas and St Mary, Stowey

The chancel of the Church dates back to 1235 although it is likely that the site was used for worship before this date. The nave was added in the 14th Century and the tower in the 15th Century. The building was listed as a grade II listed building in 1960, has been well maintained but has ongoing maintenance needs. The graveyard has limited space which will cater for the needs of the residents of Stowey but is not available to residents of Bishop Sutton.

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Bishop Sutton

Holy Trinity Parish Church dates from 1848 and is a Grade II listed building; there is a need for toilet and catering facilities within the building. There is no provision for car parking and the graveyard has been closed to burials with the exception of ashes in a small area. The lack of a graveyard in Bishop Sutton has led to distress at times of bereavement as the nearest available graveyard is at East Harptree.

The Methodist Church, Bishop Sutton

The Methodist Chapel which was built in 1778 has become the Church Hall with the new chapel built in 1914. There is a car park with approximately 20 places, good catering facilities, disabled access and toilets that were modernised circa 2000 providing a warm community-based resource centre for the village.

There are many activities taking place within the Methodist Church premises, including Bishop Sutton Pre-school, Women's Institute, Keep Fit / Pilates, coffee mornings, luncheon club, Parish Council meetings and Chill Out Zone (youth club).

Organisations using the Methodist Church

WI

The WI are satisfied with the facilities at the Church and do not foresee any problems accommodating increased numbers of residents moving to the Village.

Pre-School

Bishop Sutton Pre-School has been based in the schoolroom of Bishop Sutton Methodist Church since it began in 1969. The Pre-School runs during term times during some mornings and early afternoon in the Methodist Hall for children from the age of 2 years. On Thursday mornings, children are taken outdoors to enjoy the "Forest Club". The Pre-School and Forest Club have been awarded outstanding status by Ofsted and the Children's Society has awarded the Children's and Young People's Rights Charter 'Gold Award'.

The Pre-School is currently at capacity and would require more space or more sessions or a restriction to Parish children only, to accommodate any increase in numbers of young children in the parish with current and future housing development

Chill Out Zone (Youth Club)

The Chill Out Zone is open to 14-19 year olds on a number of Monday evenings providing music, games and refreshments. The youth have commented collectively in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan during meetings on the 14th April in the Methodist Church with 16 young persons in attendance and at the Youth Bus at the Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd April with 20 young persons in attendance:

- young girls would like street lighting along the main road as they feel vulnerable at night walking in the dark;
- they often feel they have no place to play as they are told to "clear off" the cricket pitch,
- more bins would be appreciated around the Village Hall for rubbish,
- more shops are wanted to give better choice / competition; and
- they would like more facilities available during the week such as the youth bus on an additional evening and wonder whether the Parish Council could assist with this cost (circa £8k pa) and the Methodist Church open on additional evenings.
- the transport supplied to the skate board park at Midsomer Norton needs to be able to take BMX Bikes and publicity for the transport needs to be improved;
- an outdoor shelter was suggested with lighting at night time; one wall of the shelter could be used for kicking balls against to reduce disturbance from noise around the Village Hall
- they would be happy for households to pay an extra £15 pa to increase broadband speeds to 500mb/s
- the skateboarding area at the Village hall is not suitable because the area is not big enough; however, other potential locations within the Village could be explored.

Police

The main priority for the Police is dealing with complaints of noise and anti- social behaviour caused by young people, particularly behind the Village Hall. This problem may increase with additional housing and families. It is possible that young people from neighbouring villages are travelling to Bishop Sutton to meet up as anti-social behaviour is a rare problem elsewhere in the Chew Valley. It is considered that young peoples' needs are currently not being met adequately. The recent second session for the youth bus is an attempt to meet ongoing needs of young people.

Bishop Sutton A.F.C.

Bishop Sutton A.F.C. were officially established in 1977, although it is actually a reformed version of a club that dated from the early 1900s. The club is located at Lakeview, Wick Road, Bishop Sutton, BS39 5XN; facilities include club house with bar, catering facilities, changing rooms, toilets and disabled access, car park for 100 spaces, the Hunt stand with 105 seats and flood lighting.

The club runs 3 teams, the first team draws players mostly from outside the village but the reserve and under 14 teams do include youths who live in the Parish. An area to the side of the pitch is provided with 5-a-side nets for supervised youth groups to practice and play football.

Bishop Sutton Cricket Club

The cricket club was founded in 1960 and uses the recreation ground as a cricket pitch along with the village hall for car parking and changing facilities. The club cuts the grass on the recreation ground throughout the year; maintenance of the hedges and ditches surrounding the ground is by the parish council. The club currently has some 20 registered players, the majority of which live outside the Parish but may have previously lived locally. The club has indicated an aspiration to re- develop a youth team which would once again channel young players from the parish into the senior team.

Tennis

The Club is situated off the A368 on the eastern boundary of Bishop Sutton on a site of approximately ½ acre. There are 2 grass courts, 3 hard courts and 2 training courts with floodlights to enable use through the winter months. The Club House has changing and showering facilities and the car park will hold approximately 30 vehicles. The Club is used by many children, young people and adults from the Chew Valley as well as the parish of Stowey Sutton; it currently has vacancies for new members.

The Community Farm

The community farm is located on a 9 hectare site off Denny Lane approximately 2km from Bishop Sutton and in the Parish of Chew Magna. The Farm is a Community Benefit Society with 500 members who have invested in the farm through Community Shares contributing to the resilience of our food security, the local economy, and to the development of a self-sustaining, low- carbon food and farming system. Vegetables and fruit are grown organically and are sold both wholesale and through a vegetable box scheme with members enjoying a 10% discount. Local parishioners from surrounding parishes including Stowey Sutton, who volunteer to work on the farm, are offered training in horticulture; educational programmes and training is also provided to local schools who are encouraged to grow their own vegetables.