

Assessment of the contribution of the Stonehouse
Neighbourhood Development Plan to the achievement of
sustainable development.

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development
Plan
2016 – 2031

Shape, Protect and Enhance Stonehouse

Assessment of Contribution to
Sustainable Development

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Introduction:

Contributing to the achievement of sustainable development is a basic condition draft neighbourhood plans must meet if they are to proceed to a referendum.

In order to demonstrate that a draft neighbourhood plan contributes to sustainable development, sufficient and proportionate evidence should be presented on how the draft neighbourhood plan guides development to sustainable solutions.

There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal. However, one of the key aims of Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan is to contribute to the environmental, social and economic sustainability of Stonehouse.

The table below demonstrates how the policies in the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan contribute to the sustainability objectives set out by the Sustainability Appraisal of the adopted Stroud District Local Plan.

Assessment:

Topic	Objectives	NDP Response
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that air quality continues to improve. 	<p>Policy AF1, AF2 and AF3 all seek to encourage a wide and increasing range of retail and amenity provision within the Stonehouse boundary, so minimising the requirement for travelling and hence cutting vehicle emissions.</p> <p>Policies T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8 and T9 all promote more sustainable forms of transport, hence improving air quality.</p> <p>Policies ENV1, ENV2, ENV3 and ENV8 all contribute to the reduction of air pollution by protecting green spaces and green infrastructure.</p>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create, protect, enhance, restore and connect habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest. 	<p>Policies T1, T2, T3, T5 and T6 encourage the development of wildlife corridors beside footpaths and cycle paths.</p>

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		<p>Policies ENV1, ENV2, ENV3 and ENV5 all protect biodiversity by protecting and developing green spaces and green corridors.</p> <p>Policy ENV7 requires new development to take up ‘opportunities to provide habitats for insects and bird nesting’</p>
Climate change mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement energy efficiency through building design to maximise the re-use of land and buildings, recycle building materials and use renewable sources of energy. • Implement strategies that help mitigate global warming and adapt to unavoidable climate change within the District. 	<p>Policy AF1, AF2 and AF3 all seek to encourage a wide and increasing range of retail and amenity provision within the Stonehouse boundary, so minimising the requirement for travelling and hence cutting vehicle emissions. Additionally policy AF2 addresses the potential to incorporate Sustainable Drainage.</p> <p>Policies T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8 and T9 all promote more sustainable forms of transport, hence contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Policies ENV1, ENV2, ENV3 and ENV8 all protect and develop green spaces and green corridors which have the potential to absorb carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Policy ENV9 promotes allotments, which have the potential to contribute to a reduction in food miles and hence carbon dioxide production from transport.</p>
Community & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the challenge of a growing and ageing population. • Encourage social inclusion, equity, the promotion of equality and a respect for diversity. 	<p>Policies AF1 and AF2 seek to maintain existing recreation facilities and encourage provision of additional facilities.</p> <p>Policy T1, T2 T3, T5 and, T6 promote ease of access for wheelchairs and</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve the community's health with accessible healthcare for residents. • Increase levels of physical activity, especially among the young. • Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. • Provide access to the countryside and appropriate land for leisure and recreation use. 	<p>mobility scooters, hence meeting the needs of an aging population.</p> <p>Policies T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7 and T8 all promote active travel which has potential to contribute to the health of the population as well as to social cohesion as people are more likely to interact socially when they are walking.</p> <p>Policies T1, T2, T4, T5, T6 and T8 aim to improve access to social facilities and to the canal.</p> <p>Policy H3 promotes the inclusion of play space within new developments.</p> <p>Policy AF3 protects the viability of the town centre an important focus for community cohesion.</p> <p>Provision of green space and green corridors through the biodiversity and climate change policies above encourage social inclusion, including for the elderly, and provide opportunities for physical activity.</p>
<p>Economy & Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a strong, diverse, vibrant and sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth. • Develop the local economy within its environmental limits. • Maintain and enhance employment opportunities within the District to meet both current and future needs. 	<p>Policy AF3 seeks to maintain employment through the current retail provision and encourage new retail opportunities hence further employment.</p> <p>Policies T1, T2, T6 and T8 promote access to the town centre, so enabling people to access town centre businesses. Policy T10 protects town centre parking.</p> <p>Policy T8 promotes links between the industrial estate and town centre to the advantage of both.</p>

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		<p>The promotion of sustainable transport by the policies in the Travel and Transport section, should help businesses by reducing the delays due to traffic congestion.</p> <p>Policies EM1, EM2 and EM3 support the local economy and employment by safeguarding employment sites and employment usage.</p> <p>Policy EM4 protects the communications infrastructure that supports the local economy.</p>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide affordable and decent housing to meet local needs. 	<p>All the housing policies aim to encourage affordable and decent housing to meet local needs. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy H1 promotes dwellings of the type and size needed locally; • Policy H2 promotes ease of access to new residential development; • Policy H3 promotes play space for children. •
Landscape & Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce local distinctiveness, local environmental quality and amenity through the conservation and enhancement of the built and cultural heritage. • Conserve and enhance landscapes and townscapes. 	<p>Policies ENV4 and ENV5 protect the heritage of Stonehouse.</p> <p>Policy ENV6 protects important views and vistas into and out of Stonehouse.</p> <p>Policy ENV7 requires design of new development to ‘complement the local vernacular’ and ‘enhance visual amenity’</p>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance soil quality. 	
Transport & Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic reduction and encourage more sustainable alternative forms of transport. 	<p>Policy AF1, AF2, AF3 and AF4 all seek to encourage a wide and increasing range of retail and amenity provision within the</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore, manage and promote the canal towpaths as part of the transport infrastructure. 	<p>Stonehouse boundary, so minimising the requirement for travelling and hence cutting vehicle emissions.</p> <p>Policies T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8 and T9 all aim to facilitate sustainable transport.</p> <p>Policy T8 aims to improve links to the canal towpath and hence indirectly to promote its use.</p> <p>Policy ENV7 requires that new development provides ‘good and safe access’ for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as cycle storage.</p>
<p>Waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the amount of waste produced, maximise the amount that is reused or recycled, and seek to recover energy from the largest proportion of the residual material. 	
<p>Water (inc. flood risk)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of ground and surface waters. • Manage and reduce the risk of flooding in new and existing development. 	<p>Policy AF2 addresses the potential to incorporate Sustainable Drainage.</p> <p>Policy ENV7 requires new development to use sustainable drainage systems to minimise flood risk.</p>