



Our Vision for Stonehouse

Over the next 20 years the strong, friendly community of Stonehouse will continue to develop as a distinctive, thriving town set in beautiful countryside with excellent transport links and employment opportunities.

Objectives:

Housing Development

In order to retain strong family and community ties we will support a mix of housing types to support our future requirement and meet the needs of all ages, income and varied needs.

In particular we will support:

- Housing appropriate for older people and those with accessibility issues
- Smaller units – catering for single people, single parents and those wishing to downsize
- Housing that is less expensive to buy/rent and to run
- Energy efficient buildings

Getting around

Our goal is an accessible Stonehouse where people can get around easily and conveniently by foot, mobility scooter, bicycle, public transport and private motorised transport, encouraging more sustainable travel and a consequent reduction in traffic congestion.

In order to achieve this goal we will need to:

- Support safe and convenient routes for pedestrians (including for the less able bodied), wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility scooters.
- Support the extension of the network of safe and convenient cycle routes for all abilities.
- Support improved bus services
- Protect and improve the current railway station and support the re-opening of Bristol Road station.
- Only support major development where it is, or will be made, accessible to the town centre on foot and by cycle.
- Support improvements to on-street parking in Stonehouse, creating a safer environment for all road users.
- Increase the number of conveniently placed cycle racks as the opportunity arises.
- Support improvements to the links between the town and the canal.

Community, Facilities and Retail

Our goal is to meet the recreational aspirations, the health and wellbeing and the practical needs of our community, whilst retaining the distinctive character of Stonehouse.

In order to achieve this goal we will need to:

- Continue to grow as a thriving and diverse town centre with independent traders and businesses.
- Increase the range and improve the quality of meeting spaces and sporting facilities to meet the needs of all age groups.
- Increase the opportunities for formal and informal play and indoor and outdoor recreation within the town
- Support the retention and improvement of services that people rely on, for example: library, doctor, dentist, post office, banks, youth club, opticians
- Support the development of the night-time economy of Stonehouse to offer a range of social activities.



Environment (Green Space and Recreation)

Our goal is to protect and enhance access to green spaces both within the town and the surrounding countryside.

In order to achieve this goal we will need to:

- Minimise the visual impact of new development on views out of and views into the Stonehouse settlement.
- Support improvements to the links between the canal and Stonehouse town centre
- Protect and enhance green spaces and support their recreational use
- Protect and enhance the heritage and wildlife assets of Stonehouse, allowing them to be appreciated by residents and visitors.
- Move toward a greener Stonehouse.

Employment

Our goal is to support employment opportunities and secure a prosperous economic future for Stonehouse.

In order to achieve this goal we will:

- Protect, support and improve existing employment sites.
- Support improvements to the relationship and links between existing employment sites and the town centre.
- Support more high quality jobs accessible to Stonehouse residents.
- Seek new employment sites that support small and medium-sized businesses.