

STONEHOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: YOUR COMMENTS

MAY 2014

INTRODUCTION

"The following pages are the questions you will find on the theme boards today. Please use the following pages to give your views on the future of Stonehouse. You can also take this booklet away to fill out later but please return it to the Town Hall by Friday 24th May."

RESPONSES

- 37 comment forms were completed.
- As indicated in A1, 8 of the forms were completed as a couple. Therefore the 37 forms represent the views of 45 people.

SECTION A: A LITTLE ABOUT YOU

A1. I am completing these questions as an... Individual/Couple/On behalf of a business

- 76% of forms were completed as an individual and 22% as a couple. None were completed on behalf of a business and one did not reply.

	No. of forms	% of 37 forms
Individual	28	76%
Couple	8	22%
On behalf of a business	0	0%
No reply	1	3%

A2 - I am here as ... Resident/Visitor. If visiting, where are you from?

- 93% of the 45 people are residents and 3 are visitors. Only one of the three visitors specified where they were from, namely Stroud.

	No. of people	% of 45 people
Resident	42	93%
Visitor	3	7%

A3 - What is the age of the person completing these questions?

- 44% of the 45 people are aged 51-75 and 40% aged 31-50, with smaller numbers from the other age groups.

	No. of people	% of 45 people
Under 18	1	2%
18-30	2	4%
31-50	18	40%
51-75	20	44%
Over 75	3	7%
No reply	1	2%

SECTION B: ABOUT STONEHOUSE

B1 - What kind of place would you like Stonehouse to be in 20 years?

Number of comments: 32

- Based on the most common answers given to this question, the picture that respondents paint of the kind of place they would like Stonehouse to be in 20 years, is a vibrant, thriving small town with a range of shops, links to the canal, green spaces and a strong, friendly community.

B2 - Are there any areas in Stonehouse that you would like to see 'tidied up' and do you have any ideas for doing this?

Number of comments: 30

- The most common area mentioned with regard to 'tidying up' was the Elm Road youth centre (14 comments). Some respondents thought it should be demolished while others suggested restoration/redevelopment. There were suggestions that the site could be used for housing or a new community centre. There were also 6 comments about the Magpies building, with suggestions to improve or rebuild it. 3 comments mentioned the litter and fly tipping at the newt pond.

SECTION C: HOW THE STONEHOUSE SETTLEMENT HAS GROWN

C1 - How will your personal needs for housing in Stonehouse change over the next 20 years?

Number of comments: 31

- The most common answer given by respondents was that their needs are unlikely to change over the next 20 years (14 comments). Otherwise, the most common answers were the need to downsize to a smaller home and/or garden (5 comments), affordable housing for their children (3), the need for a disability-adapted home (3) and the need for either sheltered accommodation or a nursing home (2 comments, each mentioning both these options).

C2 - In general, what type of housing do you think will be needed in Stonehouse for the future?

Number of comments: 33

- Most commonly, respondents thought that affordable/social housing will be needed in Stonehouse for the future (13 comments), while a further 6 thought that starter homes or homes for first time buyers will be needed. 8 comments mentioned families and 4 mentioned young people. The needs of older people were also highlighted, with 2 comments mentioning sheltered accommodation, 2 mentioning bungalows and an additional 6 talking in general about the need for homes suitable for older people. 4 comments indicated the need for a mixture of housing types and 4 said there will be a need for smaller homes.

C3 - Where could new housing be built in Stonehouse?

Number of comments: 29

- The most common locations mentioned by respondents for new housing were the Elm Road youth club site (5 comments), Standish hospital (3) and Berryfield sports field (3). Three other locations received 2 mentions each, namely the old station site, next to the medical centre and opposite "Happylands".

C4 - What should be borne in mind when planning and building any new housing in Stonehouse?

Number of comments: 32

- Issues mentioned by respondents to be borne in mind when planning and building any new housing in Stonehouse included accessibility (9 comments, including transport connections and foot and cycle links to town), traffic e.g. congestion (7), protecting green spaces/countryside (6), infrastructure/facilities e.g. community facilities (5), parking (3) and energy efficiency (2).

SECTION D: EMPLOYMENT

D1 - How should the Neighbourhood Plan help develop economic diversity?

Number of comments: 24

- Suggestions for how the Neighbourhood Plan could help develop economic diversity included encouraging/supporting small businesses (4), reopening the second train station (3) and providing jobs for local people (3).

D2 - Where should future commercial sites be located?

Number of comments: 23

- Suggested locations for future commercial sites included in or near to the current industrial sites (13) and at Oldends Lane (5).

D3 - How can we improve links between the town and industrial sites?

Number of comments: 27

- The most common suggestions for improving links between the town and industrial sites were to create cycle routes (8 comments) and walkways/footpaths (8 comments) between the two areas.

D4 - How can Stonehouse gain more benefit from the industries on its doorstep?

Number of comments: 25

- The most common suggestions by which Stonehouse could gain more benefit from the industries on its doorstep were for local industries to forge links with schools (7), provide apprenticeships (5 comments) and employ local people (4).

SECTION E: GREEN SPACES

E1 - Which spaces are important to you and why?

Number of comments: 32

- Spaces of importance to respondents included Doverow Hill (9 comments), the parks (5), Laburnum (4), and the canal (4).

E2 - Do we have enough green spaces in Stonehouse?

- 13% do not think there are enough green spaces in Stonehouse. 56% think there are enough, while the remainder gave other responses or did not reply.

	No. of people	% of 45 people
Yes	25	56%
No	6	13%
Don't know	1	2%
Other reply	4	9%
No reply	9	20%

E3 - What facilities would you like on the green spaces?

Number of comments: 28

- Facilities that respondents would like on the green spaces included a children's play areas (5 comments), an outdoor/green gym (5), tennis courts (4), seating (3), bins (2) and toilets (2), while 3 commended the current skate park.

E4 - What other sports provision would you like to see in Stonehouse?

Number of comments: 23

- The most common suggestions for other sports provision in Stonehouse included a swimming pool (9 comments), tennis courts (5) and cycling (3).

SECTION F: TOWN CENTRE & RETAIL

F1 - What do you think of the businesses currently available in Stonehouse?

Number of comments: 32

- In respect of the businesses currently available in Stonehouse, there were 17 positive comments, 8 mixed comments (part-positive, part-negative) and 6 negative comments. Dislikes included the preponderance of takeaways, cafés, charity shops and hairdressers.

F2 - What do you access in the Town?

Number of comments: 31

- Businesses commonly accessed by respondents in the town include the Co-op (12), greengrocers (10), post office (10), hardware (10), doctor (9), charity shops (8), butcher (8), chemist (5) and banks (7).

F3 - Which services do you travel outside Stonehouse to access and where do you access them?

Number of comments: 31

- Services commonly accessed outside Stonehouse include clothes shops and supermarkets, while common locations include Stroud (17), Gloucester (17), Cheltenham (7) and Bristol (7).

F4 - What else would you like to see provided in Stonehouse?

Number of comments: 24

- The most common suggestions for additional provision in Stonehouse included a swimming pool (4 comments), a cinema (3), a second station to Bristol (4), cheap or free car parking (2), a cheaper supermarket (2), stationery (2), restaurant (2) and pub (2).

SECTION G: GETTING AROUND

G1 - What would help you to get around Stonehouse?

Number of comments: 26

- Suggestions to help people get around Stonehouse included more/better cycle paths (4 comments), people not parking on pavements (3) and more frequent/late buses (3).

G2 - Would you use the Bristol/Gloucester line if the old station reopened?

- 76% said they would use the Bristol/Gloucester line if the old station reopened.

	No. of people	% of 45 people
Yes	34	76%
No	4	9%
Don't know	1	2%
No reply	6	13%

G3 - Would you walk/cycle if more paths were available?

- 64% said they would walk/cycle if more paths were available.

	No. of people	% of 45 people
Yes	29	64%
No	7	16%
Don't know	2	4%
No reply	7	16%

G4 - What would help you use public transport more?

Number of comments: 22

- The most commonly mentioned changes which would help respondents to use public transport more included more frequent/late buses (9), more frequent trains (2), cheaper fares (6, of which 3 specified bus fares and 3 specified train fares), better/more up-to-date timetable information (2) and reopening the second train station (2).

SECTION H: FACILITIES

H1 - Which facilities that we have missed from the display board, please list them below?

Number of comments: 7

- There were only 7 comments for this question and only 3 of these mentioned facilities, namely entertainment facilities, “youth club and teeny club run by Bethel church” and a parking/hard surface area at Stagholt Lane which is used by the respondent’s family to play tennis.

H2 - Which of these facilities do you use?

Number of comments: 10

- There were 10 comments for this question, with answers including the library (5 comments), town hall (3), community centre (3) and church (2).

H3 - What else does Stonehouse need?

Number of comments: 17

- The most common suggestions for additional facilities included another community centre (6 comments), tennis courts (2), a swimming pool (2) and a better/more accessible library (2).

H4 - Where do you think any additional facilities should be situated?

Number of comments: 14

- The most common location suggested for additional facilities was Oldends Lane (6 comments).

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

Number of comments: 13

- There were 13 additional comments which were of a diverse nature with no single issue dominating.

NEXT STEPS

I am particularly interested in the following topics:

Number of comments: 4

- One or more topics were specified on 4 of the forms. These were: business development; children; community facilities & conservation; and planning & reopening of Bristol Road Station.

Contact details

- Email addresses and/or telephone numbers were provided on 13 of the forms (35%). These have been input into a spreadsheet but are not included in this report.