

Consultation Statement Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2031

1. Introduction

This document fulfils the requirements of the [Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012](#) for the submission of a consultation statement which

- (a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- (b) explains how they were consulted;
- (c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- (d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

2. Designation of the neighbourhood area

In May 2013 Stonehouse Town Council formed a working group of residents and members to oversee the development of the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan. On 22 July 2013, Stonehouse Town Council resolved to apply for the whole parish to be designated a Neighbourhood Plan Area. On 12th September 2013 Stroud District Council's Environment Committee approved the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation and Stonehouse Town Council as the qualifying body for the production of a neighbourhood plan.

3. Launch and identifying issues: consultation January 2014 - May 2014

An initial on line survey of residents to launch the Neighbourhood Plan and identify issues was carried out in January to February 2014 and completed by 95 people. The survey was advertised in the December 2013 issue of Stonehouse News, Stonehouse Town Council's quarterly newsletter delivered to all households (around 3,500) in the parish, and on the Town Council website.

The survey consisted of five open questions:

What do you most like about Stonehouse?

What do you most dislike about Stonehouse?

What do you think are the most important assets in Stonehouse?

What additional facilities would you like to see?

What opportunities for improvement can you see?

[Initial Survey: Responses grouped](#)

[Initial Survey: Summary of responses](#)

[Initial Survey: Messages](#)

On 10th May 2014, Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group (SNPG), supported by a Locality/Community Development Foundation grant, ran their first public consultation event at Stonehouse Town Hall, attended by 64 people. The event was advertised in the April 2014 edition of Stonehouse News and on the Town Council website. Posters, flyers and banners were also used to promote the event. Professionally designed boards gave information about the town under five key themes. These themes were based on analysis of the issues raised in the initial survey. The aim was to inform the community about the Neighbourhood Plan and find out more about the issues they wanted the Plan to address. Thirty seven comment forms were returned and people also provided 183 comments on post it notes. People placed post-its on a number of large maps to identify what they liked about Stonehouse.

[Issues Consultation May 2014: Consultation boards](#)

[Issues Consultation May 2014 : Post-it notes](#)

[Issues Consultation May 2014 : Summary of responses](#)

Summary findings from consultations on issues

What people like about Stonehouse:

Friendly community with good town centre facilities for shopping, health care, education and recreation. Good location, good transport links, flat walking and cycling and access to the countryside.

What people don't like about Stonehouse:

Too much through traffic on High Street, congestion from motorways and factories, parking on High Street; lack of choice on High Street, lack of night life; disused buildings and sites; concern regarding threat to library and loss of amenities.

How people would like to see Stonehouse develop:

To see the town develop as a vibrant, thriving place with a range of shops, links to the canal and green spaces and a strong friendly community. Less rubbish, improvements to dilapidated buildings.

- **Housing:** Affordable housing, starter homes, housing for the elderly and those with mobility problems should be provided. Housing should have good access to town and transport.
- **Economy:** Support for small businesses, jobs and apprenticeships for local people and re-opening Bristol Road station. Better cycle routes and footpaths between town and industrial sites.
- **Environment:** Green spaces popular; should be conserved.
- **Amenities:** Better variety of shops; more community facilities, play areas and a swimming pool needed.
- **Transport:** More/improved cycle paths, more public transport.

[Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan: Summary of issues raised in consultations to May 2014](#)

4. Developing a Vision and Objectives: consultation July 2014 – January 2015

A second major consultation event was held at Park Junior School on 5th July 2014, as part of Stonehouse Community Partnership Arts Festival. The Arts Festival is a major town event which is widely advertised with posters, banners, local press and social media articles and participation from local schools. The Neighbourhood Plan consultation was advertised with a full page article in the June 2014 edition of Stonehouse News. The aim was to seek further information on issues raised at the first consultation to assist with drawing up a draft vision and objectives. The professionally designed boards were adapted to suit the purpose of the consultation. Twenty three comment forms were completed.

[Vision and objectives consultation boards](#)

[Vision and objectives consultation July 2014: Survey form](#)

[Vision and objectives consultation July 2014: Survey forms results and summary](#)

[Vision and objectives consultation July 2014: Post it notes](#)

A draft vision and set of objectives, based on the themes of amenities, transport, housing, economic development and environment was drawn up based on analysis of consultation responses carried out by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC).

Consultation on the draft vision and objectives took place through the Town Council website from September 2014, at an Investigating Stonehouse (Stonehouse Traders Celebration Day) event, Good Will Fest 2014 and through an on line survey (December 2014 to January 2015) which received 40, largely positive, responses. The on line survey was advertised in Stonehouse News (Issue 24, Winter 2014). Survey respondents were automatically entered into a £100 prize draw.

[Draft Vision and Objectives Consultation 2014-15: Investigating Stonehouse post-it comments](#)

[Draft Vision and Objectives Consultation 2014-15: GoodWill Fest comments](#)

[Draft Vision and Objectives Consultation 2014-15: On line survey results](#)

The group used the [Vision and Objectives](#) developed through consultation to inform the next stage of work, policy development. The Vision and Objectives were formally agreed by Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group at a [meeting of 26 November 2015](#) and further refined after comments were sought from [Stroud District Council](#) and an independent [planning consultant](#).

5. Consultation with groups

In late 2014 to early 2015, SNPG consulted with:

[Rock Youth Club](#)

[British Legion](#)

Schools (Maidenhill School Council, 4 February 2015), Stonehouse Community Partnership Schools Working Group ([Meeting, 26 September 2014](#))

(results for the above groups

within [Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Results to Sep 2014 by Theme](#)),

As a result of attending the Maidenhill School Council, three students attended an SNPG meeting and one became a member of the group from March 2015 to December 2015; he assisted with setting up Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Facebook and Twitter accounts which were used to publicise the Plan. [Feedback](#) collected by the School Council and reported by 3 students to an SNPG meeting showed that improvements to sporting, youth and shopping facilities were popular with students; this information assisted with the development of Amenities and Facilities policies.

Business Consultation event, 17 October 2014

*Around 100 businesses were invited to this event (mail out to 64 businesses, hand delivery to town centre businesses) which aimed to find out how the Neighbourhood Plan could improve the success of businesses within the town. Eight representatives attended ([business event attendance list](#)), and discussed the following questions:

1. *What are the three key issues which restrict growth in Stonehouse?*
2. *What are the three changes the plan could make to improve trading?*
3. *Where do the majority of your workforce travel from? Can you explain why?*
4. *Is more employment land, good or bad idea? Can you explain why?*
5. *What are the positive attributes of Stonehouse from your company's point of view?*

The main [findings](#), which were used when developing Employment and Transport policies were:

Transport issues: There are problems with traffic management, congestion and poor signposting on Oldends Industrial Estate; requests for improvement to rail services such as extending double tracking to Gloucester, re-opening Bristol Road rail station; suggestions for more cycle parking in town centre.

Other infrastructure: a need for improved information technology, phone and electrical supply and infrastructure was identified.

Facilities: a lack of training and entertainment venues was identified.

Wycliffe College: Meeting 6 March 2015

The aim of the meeting was to see how the needs of Wycliffe College, as a large employer with significant land holdings, could be met in the neighbourhood plan. Wycliffe College, a significant landowner in the town, had no current plans to develop on the open spaces they own. This was an important finding for the development of the housing policies within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan which were informed by research and consultation showing there is little land available for development in the parish.

[GFirst LEP](#) (the Local Enterprise Partnership for Gloucestershire), Meeting 16 June 2015

The meeting clarified the role of the LEP in transport, education and training. Key findings were that all LEP funded projects have to demonstrate how they will contribute to economic growth. The LEP is guided by Gloucestershire County Council transport priorities when funding transport related projects.

[Stonehouse History Group](#), SNPG meeting, 25 June 2015

Members of the History Group gave information about listed and non designated heritage assets and the development of Stonehouse Design Statement; consultation for the latter had shown the importance of the historic High Street and Town Greens to residents, a finding reinforced during consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan. On 4 September 2015, two members of the History Group lead a [tour of the High Street](#) for SNPG members, giving useful information about the development of the Town Centre, the founding and growth of Wycliffe College and Stonehouse's brick industry. Information gathered from the History Group informed the Town Character Assessment carried out by SNPG.

[Stonehouse Children's Centre](#), SNPG meeting, 9 July 2015

Key findings were that Stonehouse Children's Centre need bigger premises, there is pressure to provide childcare spaces from changes in government funding regimes and not enough childcare providers in Stonehouse. The need for more childcare spaces is reflected in the supporting text for Policy EM3: Supporting Small and Medium sized businesses.

Landowners

In addition to the meeting with Wycliffe College, a major landowner in the town, a call for sites was made using the Spring and Summer 2015 editions of Stonehouse News; one response was received of land unsuitable for development. The site assessment was carried out using criteria agreed by Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group and a sustainability checklist based on sustainability objectives set out in the Sustainability Appraisal used for the development of Stroud District Council's Local Plan.

[Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group Site Assessment Criteria](#)

[Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group Sustainability Checklist](#)

6. Emerging policies consultation

In the second half of 2015, SNPG began to develop policies under the theme areas of Amenities and Facilities, Economic Development, Environment, Housing and Getting Around. Policy development work was informed by consultation findings, evidence and research and local and national planning guidance.

On 17 October 2015, the group held a Neighbourhood Plan Update public consultation event to gather views on these emerging policies. The event was advertised in Stonehouse News Issue 27 Autumn 2015, on posters displayed in the Town Council noticeboards and distributed to High Street shops, sheltered housing, dentists, GP surgeries and vets. Invitations and posters were sent to local schools, the Children's Centre and local churches. Invitations were also sent to housing associations, neighbouring parish councils, Town Councillors, District Councillors, the County Councillor, the MP, District Council officers, various local clubs and groups, including sports clubs, the Community Centre, All Pulling Together community association and the Youth Centre. The poster was posted on the following websites or social media sites: Stonehouse Inform & Discuss, About Stonehouse, Stonehouse Rotary Stonehouse Town Council, Stonehouse Town Council Facebook page. Articles giving information about the event appeared in two local newspapers on 14 October 2015; Stroud News and Journal and Stroud Life.

Theme leaders set up stalls with emerging policy ideas, maps and photographs; most theme leaders attended and were available for discussion with members of the public. Feedback forms for attendees to note agreement or disagreement with each policy, by theme, were available. Open comment forms, by theme, were also available. Refreshments were provided and there was a projected automatic slideshow presentation of photographs of the town. Around 70 people attended and there was a largely positive response to the policy ideas displayed:

[Emerging policies consultation October 2015: summary list of policy ideas](#)

[Emerging policies consultation October 2015: response analysis](#)

As a result of this consultation, SNPG continued to work on policy development with the assistance of planning consultancy support, confident that the policy themes and intentions reflected residents' views.

On the advice of Stroud District Council, SNPG contacted the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England and Gloucestershire County Council with information on emerging policies and invited comments. The following responses were received:

[Environment Agency](#)

[Historic England](#)

Advice on sources of good practice for carrying out Town Character Assessments was used by SNPG.

[Natural England](#)

Suggestions on encouraging wildlife corridors and having a green infrastructure policy informed future policy development.

[Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Detailed comments, particularly on emerging transport policies, were used to hone policies for the draft Plan.

Great Western Railway and Network Rail were contacted in April 2016 regarding the draft policy on the Railway Station. Network Rail provided a map showing the land in their ownership around the Station.

Cotswold Canals Trust were contacted in April 2016 regarding some draft transport and environment policies particularly relevant to the canal and provided some comments.

7. Annual Town Meetings

Stonehouse Town Council holds an Annual Town Meeting, attended by around 30 members of the public in addition to town, district and county councillors; the main business is presentation of the Town Council's Annual Report and presentation of Civic Awards. SNPG gave presentations at the Annual Town Meetings of [2015](#) and [2016](#). Both presentations gave an update on the development of the neighbourhood plan; the presentation in [April 2015](#) gave information on the development of objectives; in [April 2016](#), the focus was on policy development and a future timetable for the Plan.

8. Consultation related to land proposed for Local Green Space designation.

Five areas of land have been proposed for Local Green Space designation in the draft Plan. In each case, the owner was contacted in May -June 2016 to inform them of the proposal, and provided with:

- a letter giving further information regarding the proposal
- a map of the area proposed for local green space designation
- a justification document summarising the reasons for the proposed designation
- a checklist identifying how the criteria for designation are met

Copies of all these documents can be found on the [Local Green Space evidence](#) page of the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Town Council's website.

In addition, Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group met with a representative of Stroud District Council's Asset Management on [15th March 2016](#) to discuss proposals regarding land in the District Council's ownership. Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group amended their proposal after this meeting to reduce the amount of land proposed as Local Green Space on the Park Estate.

A member of SNPG attended an All Pulling Together community centre and Park Estate Residents' Association meeting, 12 May 2016, to discuss neighbourhood plan policy proposals relating to the Park Estate. After the meeting residents provided [information](#) on their use of the estate Greens over the years.

The owner of Verney Fields [objected](#) to the proposal and received the following [response](#). No further response relating to this proposal for Local Green Space was received during the Regulation 14 consultation.

9. Consultation related to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening on Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan

Stroud District Council undertook a screening exercise and provided a screening [opinion](#) in June 2016. This opinion was sent to three relevant statutory agencies who provided responses copies of which are shown in Appendix 2 of the SEA and HRA screening determination. The District Council published its [SEA and HRA determination](#) on 18 November 2016; this states that the draft Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects which would require an SEA or a HRA. The screening is needed to assist with meeting the basic condition that a Plan must be compatible with EU obligations.

10. Stroud District Council liaison

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group received a range of help, advice and comments from Stroud District Council during the development of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, including:

[Comments on draft Vision and Objectives](#)

An amendment was made to the Vision for the Plan to reflect Stonehouse's importance as an employment centre for the District.

[Comments on emerging housing policy](#)

As a result of advice received at this meeting of 6 November 2015, SNPG:

- Collated evidence for housing types to be encouraged using Stroud District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, census, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council housing audit, and consultation findings.
- Carried out a Town Character Assessment to provide evidence for policies relating to design and the environment.
- Consulted with Gloucestershire County Council on transport and other issues.
- Consulted with Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency on environmental issues.

11. Pre-submission Draft Plan (Regulation 14 Consultation)

Consultation on the pre-submission draft of the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations took place from 1st July 2016 to 12 August 2016. A drop in event was held in the Town Hall on 9th July 2016 and a manned information stall set up in The Co-operative store, High Street on 29th July.

Consultation material and an on line response form were available on the Stonehouse Town Council website. Copies of the draft Plan and a display could be viewed at the Town Hall, Library and All Pulling Together community association and paper response forms were kept at each venue.

At the drop in event on 9th July, 10am to 12.30pm, displays by policy theme with photographs and maps were manned by theme leaders and other SNPG members. There was a short presentation and question and answer session. A display of photographs of Stonehouse taken during the development of the Plan was projected during the event. Refreshments were provided together with a seated area where consultation response forms could be completed. Thirty seven people signed the attendance sheet and five attendees completed paper response forms at the event.

The stall at the Co-operative stall consisted of photos, maps, copies of leaflet used to promote the Plan, copies of the Plan and response forms. It was manned by SNPG members from 9am to 1pm.

The consultation was publicised using the following methods:

- [Insert](#) in Stonehouse News, June 2016, with summary information and consultation details (also available on the Stonehouse Town Council website in an [audio version](#)).
- Professionally designed posters and banners were commissioned. Posters were distributed widely, especially in the Town centre and displayed in Town Council Noticeboards. Two large banners were displayed, one outside the Town Hall and the other the Town Green near the entrance to the town centre car park.
- The consultation was advertised on the Town Council website and Facebook page.
- Local Press: Stroud Life: column items, Stroud News and Journal: column items, news item re consultation and 9 July event in edition of 6 July, a Community News item with photo in edition of 13 July 2016.
- 45 attendees at previous events received [notice of the consultation](#) by e-mail.
- All Stonehouse Town Councillors, Stroud District Councillors, the County Councillor and the local MP all received notice of the consultation by e-mail.

Responses were invited in the six-week period either through paper forms (available at the consultation events on 9th and 29th July and locations where the plan could be inspected); using a download available on the Stonehouse Town Council website and through an online response facility (SNAP survey). Respondents were advised that their name and comments would be published and would be considered before amending the pre-submission draft of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Anonymous comments have not been considered or published.

12. Statutory and other invited consultees (Regulation 14 consultation)

The following 105 organisations received [notice of the consultation](#) by e-mail and inviting their comments. These included consultation bodies specified in the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012.

General consultation bodies:

Cainscross Parish Council
Canal and River Trust (Sharpness Port Authority) who provided a [response](#).
Community Engagement, Gloucestershire Constabulary
Confederation of British Industry South West
Director of Public Health for Gloucestershire
Dursley Parish Council
Eastington Parish Council
Environment Agency who provided a [response](#).
Federation of Small Businesses Branch

gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership
Gloucestershire County Council who provided a [response](#) ((response also refers to advice given on [30 March 2016](#))).
Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Great Western Railway
Highways England
Historic England
Home Builders Federation
Homes and Communities Agency
Kings Stanley Parish Council
Leonard Stanley Parish Council
Marine Management Organisation who provided a [response](#).
Nailsworth Parish Council
National Housing Federation
Natural England who provided a [response](#).
Network Rail who provided a [response](#).
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
NHS England Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire Area Team
NHS Gloucester Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Road Haulage Association
Royal Mail
Stagecoach Group plc
Standish Parish Council
Stroud Chamber of Trade and Commerce
Stroud District Council Asset Management who provided a [response](#).
Stroud District Council Planning who provided a [response](#).
Stroud Town Council who provided a [response](#).
The Coal Authority

Churches:

Bethel Church Stonehouse
St Cyr's Church
St Joseph's Catholic Church
Stonehouse Baptist Church
Stonehouse Methodist Church

Developers and Land Agents:

Bruton Knowles
P J Livesey Group Ltd
Redrow Homes Plc
Robert Hitchins Ltd who provided a [response](#).
Taylor Wimpey Plc

Electricity suppliers:

National Grid
Npower
Wales and West Utilities
Western Power

Electronic communications suppliers:

02 (UK) Ltd (Telefonica UK Limited)
Above Net Communication UK Ltd
AT&T Telecommunications Ltd
BT Group Plc
EE Limited
Orange Personal Communication Services Ltd
Telewest Communications (Cotswolds) Ltd
Three Ltd
Tiscali UK Ltd
T-Mobile UK Ltd

Gas suppliers:

AMEC Environment & Infrastructure Limited
British Gas Connections Ltd
ES Pipelines Ltd
SSE Pipelines Ltd
The Gas Transport Company Ltd
United Utilities Network Ltd

Housing Associations:

Bromford Housing Association
Guinness Trust Housing Association
Home Farm Trust
Two Rivers Housing Association

Voluntary Sector:

Adult Carers United, Carers Gloucestershire
Allsorts Gloucestershire
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
Care and Repair (Stroud)
Carers Alliance, Carers Gloucestershire
Cotswold Canals Trust
Cotswold Conservation Board
Disability Rights UK
Fair Shares
Gloucestershire Older Persons Association
Gloucestershire Voices
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Insight Gloucestershire
National Trust
Rotary Club
Royal British Legion
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Severn Wye Energy Agency
Sport England who provided a [response](#).
Stonehouse Blind Club
Stonehouse Women's Institute
Sustrans

Schools, child and youth organisations:

Hopelands School
 Maidenhill School
 Park Infant School
 Park Junior Schools
 Stonehouse Children's Centre
 Stonehouse Youth Centre
 Wycliffe College

Sports Clubs:

Stonehouse Football Club
 Stroud Cricket Club

Water and sewerage providers:

Bristol Water Plc
 Severn Trent who provided a [response](#).
 Wessex Water

13. Consultation outcome:

Twenty nine responses were received:

	Paper form	E-mail	On line	Total
Individuals/residents	11	3	3	17
Consultation bodies	0	11	1	12
				29

All [representations](#) received were compiled by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) who also ran a workshop for Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group on responding to the comments.

The table at Appendix 2 shows Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Groups responses to all representations received during the regulation 14 consultation and sets out whether and how the Plan has been changed as a result.

Key issues raised by consultation bodies**Gloucestershire County Council (GCC):**

GCC referred to comments on Transport policies made in March 2016 (included in the table at Appendix 2) but stated they had no additional comments on these policies. The policies included in the Regulation 14 consultation version of the Plan had already been changed to take account of these comments; see Appendix 2 for further details on changes made.

Minor changes to the wording of Policy ENV3 : Local Green Space and the title of Map 13 –Heritage assets were sought and made. Gloucestershire Historic Environment Records for Stonehouse were sought and added to the evidence base for the Plan in response to consultation comments.

Network Rail:

Network Rail advised that road closure times at Oldends Lane level crossing kept to a minimum. Text regarding the level crossing not altered as it does not suggest that Network Rail is to blame for any delays. The aspiration to re-open Bristol Road Station was acknowledged and a link to Network Rail's Western Route study provided. Information on pre-applications and developer contributions were provided. Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group do not foresee any developments within the Plan

area large enough to contribute to rail infrastructure. No changes to the Plan text were made as a result of these comments.

Robert Hitchins (written by Pegasus Group)

The respondent suggested that the wording of text regarding an informative related to the West of Stonehouse development was misleading, suggesting that it implied pedestrian improvements at Oldends Lane were a formal requirement of the permission. The text was altered to clarify that an informative is not a planning condition.

Transport: Comments were made that T1, T3, T5, T6, T7 were overly restrictive; these policies were amended in line with comments received from Stroud District Council Planning. A suggestion was made regarding the loss of public car parking referred to in T11; this policy was also amended in response to Stroud District Council Planning comments.

Housing: Comments were made on H1 and H2 which were redrafted in line with Stroud District Council Planning advice and H3, H4 and H5 which were deleted on Stroud District Council Planning's advice. Pegasus on behalf of Robert Hitchins recommended amending H6 and deleting H7; both were redrafted with planning consultant's advice. H7 was subsequently deleted after advice received during a Health Check of the draft Plan.

Employment: EM1 changed in response to a suggestion to include a new criterion regarding complementary ancillary uses which improve the attractiveness of an employment site.

Environment: Comments were made on ENV2, ENV4, ENV5, ENV6, ENV7 and ENV8. All these policies were amended in line with Stroud District Council Planning comments.

Stroud District Council Asset Management (written by Pegasus Group):

Transport: Comments were made that T3, T5 and T7 were overly restrictive; these policies were amended in line with comments received from Stroud District Council Planning .

Housing: Comments were made on H1 and H2 which were redrafted in line with Stroud District Council Planning advice ; H3, H4 and H5 were recommended for deletion and were deleted on Stroud District Council Planning's advice. Pegasus on behalf of Stroud District Council Asset Management recommended amending H6 and deleting H7; both were redrafted with planning consultant's advice. H7 was subsequently deleted after advice received during a Health Check of the draft Plan.

Environment: Comments were made on ENV2, ENV7 and ENV8; all were amended in line with Stroud District Council Planning advice. Stroud District Council Asset Management commented that the proposed Local Green Space designations for Severn Road Green and Midland Road Green in ENV3 should be deleted on the grounds that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) criteria for Local Green Space are not met and that Asset Management require flexibility regarding use of the green areas on the Park Estate to facilitate possible future regeneration projects. After meeting with Asset Management staff in March of this year, Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group limited the land proposed for designation to allow flexible use of the majority of open space. It is not accepted that the National Planning Policy Framework criteria for Local Green Space are not met in the case of the Severn Road and Midland Road Greens.

Stroud District Council Development Services (Planning):

Stroud District Council Planning gave detailed comments on most of the policies in the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan. Most of the amendments suggested were accepted by Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group in order to ensure conformity of the Plan with national and local planning policy.

Three of the housing policies (H3 Occupancy of Affordable Housing, H4 Retaining Affordable Housing for Long Term Community Benefit, H5 Retaining Accessible Single Storey Housing Stock) were

deleted, as although popular during consultation, Stroud District Council Planning advice was that they would not be in conformity with the Local Plan.

H7 was recommended for deletion; it was re-drafted to try to ensure conformity with national and local planning policy but subsequently deleted after advice received during a Health Check.

As a result of Stroud District Council Planning comments, Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group sought advice on re-wording the following policies from Stuart Todd, the planning consultant who worked on drafting the policies: AF1 Protecting Community Facilities, AF3 Town Centre Retail, H6 Ease of Access in New Residential development and ENV2 Blue and Green Infrastructure Network.

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group invited Stroud District Council's Neighbourhood Planning Officer to a meeting on [10 October 2016](#) to discuss some points arising from the Regulation 14 consultation. The discussion led the group to redraft the Priority Projects policy as a separate chapter in the draft Plan and provided some detailed comment to assist with the re-drafting of four other policies.

Public Comment

Responses from the public were largely supportive. Six of the seventeen individuals mentioned their support for the re-opening of Bristol Road station. Map 8 and 10 may be given additional keys. Minor errors in the Amenities and Facilities supporting text were identified and corrected.

14. Compliance with human rights legislation

As detailed in this Consultation Statement, preparation of the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan has been supported by significant effort at community engagement at all key stages: identification of issues, development of vision and objectives, policy development and a consultation draft of the whole Plan.

Since December 2013, every issue of Stonehouse News, the Town Council's quarterly newsletter delivered by volunteers to all households in the parish, has included an update article on the Neighbourhood Plan. All consultation events and surveys have been advertised in Stonehouse News. In addition, posters, flyers and e-mails advertising events have been distributed widely around High Street businesses, schools, the Children's Centre, sheltered housing, housing associations, including the Home Farm Trust, a local provider of services for people with learning disabilities, and local facilities such as doctors, dentists, garages and vets. The Town Council website and Facebook page have also been used to advertise events and provide information. The summary leaflet advertising the Regulation 14 Consultation, and distributed as an insert in Stonehouse News, was also available in summary as an MP3 file. The latter was on the town council's website and also sent to Insight Gloucestershire, a local charity supporting people living with sight impairment or blindness, for distribution through its contact list. There were two consultation events for the Regulation 14 consultation, one on Saturday morning at the Town Hall, an accessible High Street building, the other on a weekday at a popular High Street supermarket. A display and hard copies of the draft Plan were available at three venues in the town; the Town Hall, the library and a community centre on a large local authority estate.

Some consultation events were part of wider Town events in various locations (Stonehouse Community Partnership Arts Festival July 2014 (Park School Playing field), Investigating Stonehouse, Traders Celebration Day 2014 (Town Green, High Street), Goodwill Fest 2014 (Town Green, High Street) to try to reach as wide an audience as possible.

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group has arranged to meet representatives of various groups at various times and locations to suit the consultees involved. For example, SNP members have attended School Council meetings, evening meetings at a Youth Club, the British Legion and All

Pulling Together community centre as well as visiting a local private school and inviting local groups to SNPG meetings.

Consultation with groups achieved contact with a range of people of varying ages by involving, for example, schools, the Children's Centre and the British Legion.

Effort was made to engage with local businesses of all kinds through a focused consultation event.

Landowner engagement included a meeting with a significant local landowner, Wycliffe College, a Call for Sites, detailed information provided for owners of sites proposed for Local Green Space designation and a meeting with one owner, Stroud District Council Asset Management.

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group meetings are held in the Town Hall, usually at 6.30pm; they are open to the public and agendas are posted on the Town Council's website and at the Town Hall.

All sections of the community, including hard-to-reach groups, have been offered the opportunity to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Schedule of consultation activities

Appendix 2: Regulation 14 Consultation Representations with Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group Response

Appendix 3: Copies of publicity and press material