



Stonehouse Community Plan



DOCUMENT STATUS

This document has been the subject of public consultation and is now complete. The consultation period ran from **24/4/2008** to **5/6/2008**.

Copies were circulated to local and regional organisations for scrutiny to ensure that the information contained in the plan is correct and appropriate. However, anyone could comment on the plan and we especially welcomed input from people who live in or work in Stonehouse and the neighbouring areas.

Copies of the document can be requested from the Town Hall (see below) .

To comment on the plan or to get involved in our work you can:

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Foreword

Stonehouse Partnership

A great deal of hard work has gone into producing this plan. We have consulted widely with people in Stonehouse and listened to their ideas. The projects detailed in this plan have the potential to create huge benefits for the town.

Councillor Chris Brine, Chairman of Stonehouse Partnership

Stonehouse Town Council

We have set ourselves some challenging aims for the town, and we will achieve them but only if people come forward to get involved. There are so many different things happening that everyone can help in some way to make a real difference to Stonehouse.

Councillor Mattie Ross, Town Mayor & Chairman of Stonehouse Town Council

Acknowledgements

Stonehouse Partnership would like to thank the many volunteers who have contributed to the production of this plan and the people of Stonehouse who took part in the consultation exercise. In particular we would like to thank:

Chris Brine	Jim Dickson	Mattie Ross
Liz Lawrence	Colin Knight	Lesley Williams
Helen Bojaniwska	Christabel Manders-Trett	Claire Cleave
John Morris	Charles Coffin	Simon Lewis

Introduction

This plan has been written following extensive consultation with the community in Stonehouse with the aim of developing a series of steps which will help to address some of the town's problems and work on opportunities for improvement.



Public consultation at the Town Hall

Many of the projects may take many years to come to fruition, while others will produce results with the first year of the plan, for example the new website and newsletter are positive steps already achieved.

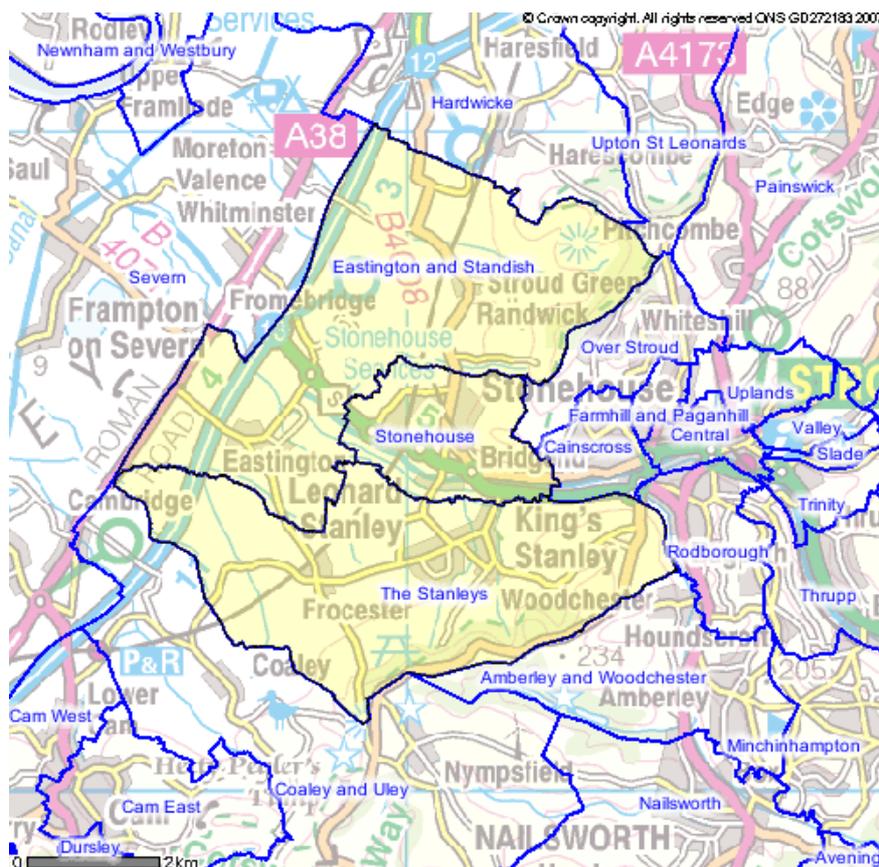
The key to delivery of this plan is community involvement. There will be many opportunities for people who live or work in Stonehouse to get involved, from helping out at events to delivering newsletters, submitting articles for the newsletter or joining one of the project groups. Every effort will count.

This document is the complete plan and contains a great deal of background information. A summary version is also available.

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Stonehouse and its hinterland

Source: National Statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk

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History

Stonehouse was originally a small rural village in an agricultural area. From the 16th century to the early 20th century the woollen cloth industry was the main form of employment. The industry flourished until 1850 when it began to decline in the face of competition from the North. Many of the old woollen mills are still standing, for example Upper and Lower Mills, Bond's Mill and Stanley Mill, but few are still engaged in cloth manufacture.

The town's growth over the centuries can largely be attributed to its position on a variety of significant transport routes: road, rail and canal. Even today it owes some of its popularity as an employment area to its proximity to the M5 motorway.

The High Street is part of an ancient and important route from the ferry which crossed the Severn at Framilode, then continued eastwards along high, dry ground above the Frome Valley and up the Cotswold escarpment to Minchinhampton and beyond.

Later came the Stroudwater Canal which opened in 1779 for coal transport and linked the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal to the Thames and Severn Canal at Brimscombe.

Restoration of parts of the canal has recently started: initially the 6-mile stretch from The Ocean to the west of Stonehouse, to Brimscombe Port on the Thames & Severn

Canal east of Stroud, which is being supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Unfortunately in February 2008 British Waterways announced its intention of withdrawing from the project, leaving a massive hole in the budget for the scheme. At the time of writing the remaining partners are confident of being able to continue the work, but time will tell whether they will be able to make up the shortfall in funding. The Cotswold Canals Partnership also had plans to restore the remaining 4 miles of the Stroudwater Navigation between Stonehouse and Saul Junction, but a recent lottery application for this section was unsuccessful. .

Stonehouse also has important railway connections, owing much of its history to the work of Brunel. The town had stations on both the Midland line from Bristol to Gloucester and the line from Gloucester to Swindon owned by the Great Western Railway.

Other industries grew in the town as the cloth industry declined, for example brick-making, which was also encouraged by the opening of the canal. The Stonehouse Brick and Tile Works, which also made pottery and terra-cotta, was well established by the end of the 19th century. There were also gravel-pits, stone quarries and a lime kiln. The building of the canal also encouraged several coal and timber merchants to set up near it.

In 1882 W.G. Sibly established Wycliffe College in five acres of grounds surrounding Haywardsfield Hall, a 17th century clothier's house in the heart of the town. The college is now a private, independent, co-educational boarding and day school with 750 pupils aged from 2 to 18 years.

The early 20th century saw the establishment of a number of manufacturing works, often utilising the now redundant mills and their former employees. New businesses included: Sperry Gyroscope Limited: a precision engineering firm established in 1939 at Bond's Mill; and the large Hoffman engineering works built in Oldend Lane in 1946. By the early 1960s, the town had been transformed from a rural village to a small industrial town.

Although Stonehouse has seen significant growth in the 20th century, the town retains many of its historic buildings and in the town centre its rural character, particularly in the High Street which is lined with greens.

Some of the town's most distinctive buildings, are:

Stanley Mill, (in King's Stanley parish) built in 1813, was designed as the first fire-proof building in England. It was built of brick and stone with a cast iron frame and is of national architectural importance. The Mill is now home to a company manufacturing industrial felts.



Stanley Mill

Stonehouse Court was originally a stone manor house owned by William de Ow (or de Eu), a cousin of William the Conqueror. William Fowler was one of two local clothiers who bought Stonehouse manor in 1558. His son Daniel rebuilt it in 1602, in the fashionably flattering form of a letter "E" for Elizabeth. A large stone in the garden is alleged to mark the burial location of Oliver Cromwell's horse.

The Court was altered by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1906 and further rebuilding and internal alteration followed a fire in May 1908. It was sold for business purposes in 1974 and is now used as a hotel.

St Cyr's Church (Grade II*) stands next to Stonehouse Court. Its first recorded incumbent was listed in 1225. The church tower dates from the 14th century; the remainder of the church was rebuilt in 1854.



St Cyr's church from the canal

Landscape and environment

The town sits on the level ground of the Severn Vale, at the western side of the Cotswold escarpment, in a broad breach in the escarpment as the River Frome flows out from the Stroud valleys, draining the Cotswolds onto the Severn plain. The hills of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty can be seen from the High Street.

The area is dissected by the River Frome and has a varied landscape from open flat plain to more undulating land towards the limestone escarpment.

Doverow Hill is one of Stonehouse's best-known landmarks and the 6 acres of woodland on top of the Hill are used for recreation by people of all ages.

Within the town there are three Key Wildlife sites: Bond's Mill Bank which is important for its plants; Stonehouse Newt Ponds – an important amphibian wetland/meadow and Verney Meadows – important "Neutral Grassland".

Apart from these designated sites the town has many green spaces which are important as both recreational and amenity spaces and as areas important for wildlife conservation. Particularly important are the many recreation grounds and playgrounds, the canal corridor, Doverow Hill, Verney Fields and the Berryfield. More detailed information on these and other open spaces can be found in the town's *Design Statement*.

The population

The parish of Stonehouse had a population of 7,603 at the last census in 2001 and a further 6,128 were recorded in the neighbouring parishes of King's Stanley, Leonard Stanley, Standish and Eastington. About 15% of the population in Stonehouse are over 65 and about 23% under 16. The population has grown rapidly - increasing by 26.4% between 1981 and 2001.

Employment

The unemployment rate is low at 1.4% compared to the national average of 2.6%. A comparatively high percentage of people travel less than 2 kilometres to work, demonstrating that work is accessible within the town and its fringes. At 25% the number of people employed in the manufacturing sector is higher than the average for England and Wales of 15%.

Economy

There are a number of large employers in the town and surrounding area, mostly on the industrial and commercial estates to the west of the town. Major employers all with more than 250 employees are:

- *Dairy Crest (Severnside)* – Oldend Lane Industrial Area – (637 employees).
- *Schlumberger* – Stroudwater Industrial Estate – development and manufacture of drilling tools for oil exploration markets.

- *ABB Limited* – Oldend Lane Industrial Area – manufacturers of flow metering and analytical equipment.
- *SKF Aerospace UK* – Oldend Lane Industrial Area – “manufacture high precision bearings for aerospace applications.”
- *Wycliffe College* – Bath Road – private, independent, co-educational boarding and day school.

Stonehouse has become an important employment area for the district, undoubtedly due, in part, to its proximity to the M5 motorway. The large businesses above attract workers from across the district.

Business confidence is high, with many firms expanding their operations in the town. Recent examples include: Anstee & Ware’s 4,000 sq ft extension, Schlumberger’s 53,000 sq ft Technology Centre and UNITE’s 184,000 sq ft state-of-the-art manufacturing site. New development continues with the construction of The Waterfront, Stonehouse Park and further sites around the town are allocated for employment use in the Local Plan.

Shops and services

Stonehouse has a good range of shops and services, mostly located on the High Street. In recent consultation exercises (see Appendix A) the retail and services mix was the most frequently mentioned issue, however there were almost as many comments in praise of the range of businesses as there were detractors. Negative comments mostly concerned the high number of takeaways and lack of food retailers.

Important draws to the town are the essential services like the banks and post office and the many specialist shops, which are largely locally owned for example the local butchers, craft shop, hardware shop and picture framing shop.

A working group has recently been set up to study the High Street area, with the aim of addressing declining footfall, public comments and concern, and the findings a recent County Council transport study. The group’s main objective is to develop options for the transformation of the High Street and its environs for the benefit of those who live, work and visit the town.

Leisure and Sport

The Cotswold Way National Trail passes through the outskirts of the town and King’s Stanley. There are many local footpaths in the town, around Doverow Hill and alongside the canal.

The Stroud Valleys Cycle Trail based on the former railway route links the town to Nailsworth and will in time connect to National Cycle Route 45.

Football is popular in the town, which has a number of teams using 6 pitches around the town. With regard to other mainstream sports there are limited or no facilities for rugby, hockey, cricket, netball, athletics, swimming or tennis.

A new sports and dance centre opened at Maidenhill School in September 2006, which is open to the public in the evenings and on Sundays.

Health

The town has 3 doctors' surgeries which perform well against national standards. Despite the presence of 4 dental surgeries there is a shortage of places for NHS dental patients.

The population is relatively healthy: there are average levels of smoking, binge drinking and obesity, and there are no outstandingly unusual disease prevalences. However, life expectancy in the area is relatively low with all three wards ranked in the worst 25% in Gloucestershire¹. Although life expectancy is an artificial construct studies have shown that much of the variation in life expectancy can be linked to deprivation.

Tourism

The town has limited facilities for tourists, with just two hotels (Stonehouse Court and the Travelodge) and a few Bed and Breakfasts. There are many takeaways, but very few restaurants. It is anticipated that the restoration of the canal will increase demand for tourist facilities.

Education

The town's state schools include The Park (Infants and Juniors), The Shrubberies and Maidenhill secondary school.

Results at Maidenhill in 2007 were below average but the school has made much progress since receiving a poor Ofsted report in January 2007 which resulted in the school being placed on special measures. The latest monitoring report dated 27 February 2008, says the school has made satisfactory progress.

The Shrubberies is a special school for pupils aged between 2 and 19 with severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties including a number of pupils with autistic spectrum disorders. The school's last Ofsted report in 2005 described the "Overall effectiveness of the school" as Grade 2: Good.

Pupils at The Park Juniors performed at above the national average at Key Stage 2 in 2006. The 2006 Ofsted report described the "Overall effectiveness of the school" as Grade 3: Satisfactory.

The Park Infants 2004 Ofsted report described the "Overall effectiveness of the school" as Grade 2: Very Good.

Private schools are Wycliffe College and Preparatory School and Hopelands Preparatory School.

The level of qualifications held by adults in Stonehouse ward is generally average, but there are noticeably fewer people with higher level qualifications (degree or professional qualifications).

¹ "Life Expectancy At Birth 1998-2002" from MAIDeN

Social issues

In surveys Stonehouse is often described as having a good community spirit. In the 2005 Postcard Competition 31% of respondents listed the town's sense of community and friendly people among the things they liked most about the place.

Most of the town is ranked quite highly in the national and county indices of deprivation (2007). There is however an area to the west of the town which is ranked in the worst 12% of the county.

There are six churches active in the town (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, New Life Christian Fellowship and Bethel Church – Assemblies of God) and at least 30 voluntary organisations and societies.

Until its closure in 2007 the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Project provided many valuable services to residents including: training programmes, a Fair Shares Time Bank, information and confidential support on benefits, housing, employment, education and training and health advice. The advice worker, who did home visits for the frail and elderly, and ran drop-in sessions, helped people to secure benefits which would otherwise have remained unclaimed amounting to £170,000 in a single year.

The church hall in Elm Road, which doubles as a community hall and youth club is under threat of closure. As well as the Youth Club this building is also used by the P.H.A.B. (Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied) club and a dance group. Although the youth club also has use of a youth "pod", this will be inadequate to plug the gap when the church hall closes and unsuitable for other uses.



The Pod

Housing

At the time of the 2001 census there were 3,003 households, of which 70% were owned by the occupiers. There is strong demand for social housing in Stonehouse with many people on the waiting lists for both social housing and sheltered housing. In 2006 there were 635 applicants on the waiting list for social housing who chose Stonehouse as their first choice of area they would like to live in, and 79 waiting for sheltered housing in the town.

The average house price in Apr-Jun 2006 was £174,285 which is beyond the reach of average first time buyers. The Stroud District Council Housing Needs Survey 2005 estimated that an average first time buyer household could afford to purchase a home in the price range £106,781 to £141,136. Average house prices in the town have grown by 75% in the 5 years to June 2006

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Although recorded crime rates in the town are average and improving, there have been problems with anti-social behaviour evidenced by vandalism, graffiti and incidents of disorder. These highly visible problems give visitors the wrong impression of the town and contribute to fear of crime in the community.

Crime, vandalism, youth problems and antisocial behaviour together represent the third most frequently mentioned issue in recent consultation exercises.

Transport

The town has good access to the national road network, being just a few minutes drive from the M5 motorway. There are frequent trains to London, Gloucester and Cheltenham and regular buses to Stroud and Gloucester from Stonehouse and most surrounding villages.

Access to Bristol and the South West by public transport is more difficult. Journeys to Bristol by train from Stonehouse involve a change at either Swindon or Cheltenham or a bus ride to Cam & Dursley station, and journey of 1 to 1½ hours. Re-opening the station on the Bristol line would be a huge improvement, but although this proposal is mentioned in the Local Transport Plan there are no definite plans for when this might happen.

Traffic volumes are a big issue for the town, especially in the High Street. This was the second most frequently mentioned in recent consultation exercises.

There is an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways in and around the town, but many are in need of maintenance or improvements. Several opportunities have been identified to create new routes, especially links from the town centre to the canal and the industrial areas.

The Partnership: structure and members

This Plan together with the Healthcheck which preceded it has been produced by the Stonehouse Partnership. The Partnership is an informal group formed in 2003 with the aim of improving the town for the benefit of all who live and work there.

Currently the group consists of representatives from a variety of groups with an interest in the town and local residents. Groups represented on the Partnership include:

- Stonehouse Town Council,
- Stroud District Council,
- Gloucestershire County Council,
- Maidenhill School,
- Local MP David Drew,
- Gloucestershire Rural Community Council,
- Stroud VCA,
- Churches Together,
- Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum,
- Neighbourhood Wardens,
- Stonehouse Rotary Club,
- Cotswold Canals Partnership,
- Market & Coastal Towns Association, and
- Local Residents.

It is acknowledged that to proceed further and to achieve the projects detailed in this plan the Partnership will need to adopt a more formal structure, which is likely to consist of a management group to which a number of project groups will report.

Funding will be required for many of the projects outlined below; most grant giving bodies have requirement that organisations should be a registered charity or constituted for charitable purposes and have well managed, good financial reporting.

The Healthcheck

The Partnership completed a Healthcheck report in August 2007. Work on the report and the consultation events which were organised during its production identified many issues which have been the inspiration for this plan. A copy of the Healthcheck report is available at the Town Hall or it can be downloaded from the resources section of the Partnership's website www.stonehouse-partnership.org.uk.

Consultation

This section contains a summary of the results of surveys conducted during preparation of the Healthcheck report and consultation exercises conducted following publication of the draft report. More detailed information is available in Appendices A and B.

Postcard Competition: Postcards were distributed in Stonehouse between July and September 2005. The postcard offered a range of prizes and asked people to describe three things that they like most and least about Stonehouse and one thing that could be done to make it a better place.

Summer Fair 2007: The Partnership displayed boards in the community centre at the Summer Fair on 23rd June 2007 showing some of the main facts and figures from the Healthcheck report, together with many photographs of the town. Visitors were asked to comment on the displays and in particular to write down what they like and dislike about the town.

Consultation Evening 24th July 2007: The Partnership held a consultation evening at the Town Hall on 24th July 2007 for community groups and organisations and open to the general public. Participants were asked to study displays of the key facts and figures from the Healthcheck report and discuss and record a SWOT analysis.

Other consultation: The draft Healthcheck was circulated to managers at Stroud District Council and published on the Town Council's website.

The results of the all of the above can be read in **Appendix A**.

Town centre business survey

A survey was conducted in Spring 2007 of businesses operating in and around the town centre of Stonehouse. The survey showed that the town centre business community is made up of a wide range of businesses, employing mostly small numbers of staff. Although there are some relatively new businesses, several have been established for decades, on average 16 years.

The survey found high levels of confidence: half of all businesses reporting that they are growing, and a number planning to recruit new staff or obtain larger or additional premises. However, there may be scope to investigate further those that are shrinking and perceived obstacles such as competition from, for example, supermarkets, and parking problems.

The results of the Business Survey can be read in **Appendix B**.

It was not possible to conduct a survey of the many businesses outside of the town centre, and this may warrant further consideration in the future.

Issues

Across all of the consultations many important issues were raised.

The 15 issues mentioned most were as follows:

ISSUE	COUNT	TYPICAL COMMENTS
Retail and services mix*	70	Too many takeaways, travel agents, estate agents, charity shops, betting shops; no clothes or shoe shops; not enough food shops (Grocers); needs another large store.
Traffic volumes	49	Too much traffic especially in the town centre. Too many lorries.
Crime, vandalism, youth problems and antisocial behaviour	44	Vandalism; graffiti; noise at night; drugs and drink.
Litter	44	Not enough bins, Rubbish from Takeaways.
Dog mess	28	
Not enough police on the beat	28	Police Station never open; lack of police presence
Grotty areas	24	Lack of maintenance; vandalism; derelict urban sites, railway station.
Inappropriate development	24	Too much development or building on greenfield or unsuitable sites
Parking regulations not enforced	22	Especially High Street and adjacent streets. Misuse of disabled bays, taxi rank & bus stops.
Encourage walking and cycling	21	Promote cycle paths, develop new routes, improve links and signage, convert footpaths to cycle paths;
Improve public transport	21	Re-open Bristol line station, improve bus and train services.
Need more for young people to do	21	Lack of community youth centre.
Speeding	21	Especially High Street and adjacent streets.
Not enough General Recreational Facilities; Entertainment	17	Need a cultural centre for adults; support for local clubs; Community Centre under-used; no cinema or bands or leisure centre.
Need to encourage tourism and promote the town	15	Capitalise on canal regeneration; "We are not a drive-thru we are a stopover"; market the High Street.

*Note that this issue was mentioned both negatively and positively. There were 70 negative comments, but the range of shops and services was also recorded as a strength 112 times.

SWOT

As well as the issues described above the Healthcheck and consultation exercises have been used to produce a SWOT analysis for the town. Note that the sections of the SWOT analysis follow the sections used in the Healthcheck report. The items included are **not** listed in any order of importance.

Economy

Strength	Weakness
Low unemployment Local employment centre with many large employers On Cotswold Way Good range of local shops, services and facilities. "Everything is here" Tourism: attractions in environs and flat Wycliffe College	Shortage of affordable housing Lack of tourist facilities Lack of a Chamber of Trade & Commerce Retail mix: too many non-retail and empty shops Industrial and commercial sites remote from the High Street
Opportunity	Threat
Canal regeneration to increase visitor numbers Promote the town, e.g. tourist information, maps, trails. Develop the town's identity as a place to "stop and linger in" as opposed to driving through Develop tourism from canal regeneration Re-introduce Farmers' Market Support Fairtrade and local shops Encourage new tourist accommodation Improve school standards Promote and develop opportunities for adult education	Antisocial behaviour Litter, vandalism and graffiti High Street vulnerable to take over or closure of key businesses Inappropriate development Not enough funding for canal regeneration

Environment

Strength	Weakness
Many historic and interesting buildings Lots of green spaces and trees, especially in the High Street Canal Views Flat	Grotty areas, e.g. footpath at rear of Midland Railway Station; derelict urban sites; railway station and embankment; and car park.
Opportunity	Threat
Sustainable development essential Promote environmental schemes like community composting High Street improvements e.g. more trees Tidy up wildlife site by Court View	Inappropriate development e.g. too much housing; wrong mix and wrong sites by canal. Flooding

Social and Community

Strength	Weakness
Strong community spirit Number and range of community organisations and voluntary groups Sports facilities	Lack of community youth centre Lack of NHS dental services Library under-used Closure of St Cyr's Hall Stonehouse Neighbourhood Project closure High house prices
Opportunity	Threat
Celebrate the town's history and industrial heritage, perhaps with a museum or visitor trail Improve community integration by developing links between town and industrial areas, community groups and Wycliffe College Create affordable housing New sports facilities	Fear of crime 20% increase of population predicted by 2026 Antisocial behaviour Litter, vandalism and graffiti

Transport and Accessibility

Strength	Weakness
Regular well used bus services Many footpaths and cyclepaths Convenient railway station Cheap and convenient car parking Good access to M5 motorway	Public transport, footways and many shops inaccessible to the disabled or for pushchairs/buggies Footpaths and bridleways in poor condition
Opportunity	Threat
Improve access to railway station Extend and improve footpaths and cyclepaths to create an integrated network Improve public transport Re-open station on Bristol Line Develop High Street area to improve public space and traffic flows	Congestion Traffic volumes in High Street Inappropriate/illegal parking Junction of Oldend Lane and Gloucester Road (congestion and visibility)

The Community Plan

Based on the Healthcheck and the various consultations involved in producing it, Stonehouse Partnership has produced a **Vision** for the town which has a number of accompanying aims and objectives. It draws together the many opportunities and issues identified and develops them into a strategy for the future.

The next section sets out the Vision, Aims and Objectives which show the Partnership's long term view of what Stonehouse will be like in the future.

After the Vision there is a section which shows the many projects which are planned and then there is a section drawing all of this material into four themes to show how everything links together.

As you read this plan please remember that this is a long term Vision, although some of the effects will be seen relatively quickly, other projects, for example the canal regeneration may take many years to come to fruition.

Remember also that some issues are largely beyond the remit of a community partnership. For example whilst it is possible to contribute to areas like crime prevention or education through local projects or by co-operating with or lobbying the relevant authorities, these are areas where funding and policy are controlled at higher levels.

Vision

Stonehouse: a friendly, vibrant and sustainable community

	Aims	Objectives
S	A Safe place to live with a strong community spirit	<p>People feel safe to go out, including at night.</p> <p>People feel safe in their homes.</p> <p>Effective policing and crime prevention.</p> <p>Low crime rates.</p> <p>The generations live in harmony.</p>
T	Things to do for people of all ages	<p>A wide range of community groups and activities.</p> <p>Community youth centre.</p> <p>Regular cultural and social events.</p> <p>A regular community newsletter.</p>
O	Open for business	<p>A comprehensive range of local shops and services.</p> <p>An attractive and distinctive High Street.</p> <p>An employment centre for the district</p> <p>The business community an integral part of the town.</p>
N	Networks of safe roads, footpaths and cycle ways	<p>Less speeding.</p> <p>Fewer accidents.</p> <p>Parking regulations enforced.</p> <p>People feel safe to walk and cycle.</p>
E	Quality Education for all	<p>Popular and successful schools.</p> <p>Opportunities for lifelong learning.</p>
H	Healthy, fit people	<p>A good choice of sports and fitness activities.</p> <p>Access to healthcare facilities for all.</p> <p>Surroundings which encourage walking and cycling, including a comprehensive network of footpaths/cycle paths.</p>
O	Open and accessible to all	<p>Good road links within the district and to the wider road network.</p> <p>Buildings, crossings and pavements suitable for all.</p> <p>Bus and train services when and where people need them.</p>
U	Uncommonly welcoming to visitors	<p>A good range of quality accommodation and places to eat and drink.</p> <p>A place to stop not just to drive through.</p> <p>Lots for visitors to see and do.</p> <p>Visitor information easily accessible, including on Internet.</p>
S	Sustainable and attractive buildings and communities	<p>Adequate supply of affordable housing.</p> <p>Appropriate development (in accordance with the Design Statement) including new buildings well integrated with the existing ones.</p> <p>New developments meet the highest possible standards of sustainable design and building shown in the "Code for Sustainable Homes".</p>
E	Environmentally friendly	<p>Attractive and well maintained streets, footpaths and cycle ways.</p> <p>Open spaces free from litter, fly tipping, dog mess, vandalism and graffiti.</p> <p>Facilities for and schemes to encourage recycling and community composting.</p> <p>Wildlife and habitats protected for the future.</p>

Projects

Abbreviations

BC	Business community
CCP	Cotswold Canals Partnership
GCC	Gloucestershire County Council
GMTF	Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum
GRCC	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
GWT	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
PC	Hinterland parish councils
SDC	Stroud District Council
SP	Stonehouse Partnership
STC	Stonehouse Town Council

Establish Partnership	
Actions or tasks	a) Decide on and establish a legal and financial format for the Partnership. b) Form work groups for projects. c) Publicise the Partnership and this Community Plan. d) Recruit and train volunteers. e) Identify and secure funding for overall running of Partnership.
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	Appropriate documentation, e.g. constitution, accounts. Local publicity e.g. posters, press articles.
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Members of the Partnership will be clear on their roles and responsibilities. The Partnership will be able to apply for funding, that might not otherwise be available. People available and ready to take projects forward.
Partners (lead in bold)	SP
Milestones, timescales and targets	All by June 2008
Cost	Low
Priority	High
More information	Advice available from GRCC and GMTF.

Business networks	
Actions or tasks	a) Re-establish the Chamber of Trade (or similar network); b) Establish links between the town, the High Street businesses and the Industrial Estate Businesses
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	Chamber of trade (or similar network) established, creating opportunities for: networking, sharing best practice and training initiatives
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Strong, sustainable business community
Partners (lead in bold)	BC, SP, STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	Ongoing
Cost	Low
Priority	Medium
More information	Advice and support may be available from BusinessLink Gloucestershire.

Cotswold Canals Renaissance	
Actions or tasks	The restoration of the Cotswold Canals
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	Restoration of the Stroudwater Navigation: Phase 1a) between Stonehouse and Brimscombe Port Phase 1b) between Stonehouse and Saul
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Creation of new jobs. Attracting inward investment. Attracting visitors. Protection of rare species including bats, water vole and native crayfish. More housing available. Opportunity for people to become more active (walking and cycling). Training opportunities for local volunteers, students and contractors during restoration. Community development and involvement.
Partners (lead in bold)	CCP including SP, STC, GCC and many others
Milestones, timescales and targets	Under review*
Cost	Under review*
Priority	High
More information	Cotswold Canals Partnership Project Atlas www.cotswoldcanalsproject.org Note that following the withdrawal of British Waterways from the project, plans are being reviewed and may have to be modified.



Work on the canal towpath near Ryeford

Sustainable Stonehouse	
Actions or tasks	A range of projects aimed at reducing the town's carbon footprint, for example encouraging homes and businesses to use less energy, promoting alternative energy sources, encouraging walking & cycling, promoting recycling, encouraging people to shop locally.
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	Reduced energy consumption, fewer vehicle journeys, green energy sources, more recycling.
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Reduced carbon emissions
Partners (lead in bold)	SDC, SP , STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	2 or 3 new projects each year for at least 3 years.
Cost	Low
Priority	High
More information	SevernWye Energy Agency can provide free support for businesses to improve their energy efficiency. Y-Waste can help with business recycling.

Historic Stonehouse	
Actions or tasks	a) Establish a Civic/Historical Society b) Identify opportunities to create facilities to celebrate the town's heritage. c) Projects with local schools to celebrate the town's history
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	New Civic/Historical Society; resources for residents and tourists e.g. town trails and possibly a heritage resource centre.
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Opportunities to study and celebrate the town's heritage
Partners (lead in bold)	SP , schools
Milestones, timescales and targets	February 2009
Cost	Low
Priority	Medium



Stonehouse Court

WWII Pillbox at Bond's Mill

Community communications	
Actions or tasks	Develop community communications
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	a) Regular community newsletter b) Community website
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Residents and business people kept up to date with what is happening in and around the town. Accessible information for visitors.
Partners (lead in bold)	SP, STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	a) <i>1st edition published in March 2008a</i> b) www.stonehouse-partnership.org.uk launched in January 2008 a
Cost	Low
Priority	High



Partnership website



First edition of newsletter

Community Composting	
Actions or tasks	Establish community composting site with a doorstep collection scheme
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	Local facilities for composting household and garden waste
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Good for wildlife; reduces use of peat-based fertilisers and chemical fertilisers; good for environment – organic waste in landfill sites produces the greenhouse gas methane; saves money for gardeners; and fewer trips to Recycling Centres, e.g. at Horsley.
Partners (lead in bold)	GWT, SP, STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	Fully operational by April 2009
Cost	Medium
Priority	High

Footpaths and cycle paths	
Actions or tasks	a) Review footpaths and cycle ways, suggest improvements or alterations. b) Develop new routes to improve communications within the town, especially routes to the canal and industrial estates
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	An integrated network of high quality footpaths and cycle ways
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Easier and safer to travel around town on foot or bicycle, thereby encouraging people to walk & cycle. Reduced road traffic. Health improvements
Partners (lead in bold)	GCC, PC, SDC, SP, STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	a) August 2008 b) end of 2010
Cost	Medium
Priority	High
More information	



Footpath at rear of Midland Road



Cycleway by A419

Shared Space	
Actions or tasks	Develop a vision for the re-design of Stonehouse High Street acceptable to the local and business community.
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	Re-designed High Street incorporating Shared Space principles.
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	(1) reduce the impact of vehicular traffic and (2) improve the attractiveness of the town for trade.
Partners (lead in bold)	SP, STC, GCC , SDC
Milestones, timescales and targets	Action plan by Easter 2008 A fully supported vision by Christmas 2008
Cost	High
Priority	High
More information	



Shared space in Haren, The Netherlands



Stonehouse High Street

Social/community centre	
Actions or tasks	a) Research current facilities for community, cultural and social events, training and healthy living initiatives and identify any gaps in provision. b) Identify opportunities to extend and/or enhance current provision at Community Centre, library and Town Hall. c) Investigate opportunities to provide public Internet access and access to learning
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	New or enhanced social/community facilities
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	A cultural and social focal point. A wider variety of social, educational, healthy living and leisure activities.
Partners (lead in bold)	SP , STC, GCC
Milestones, timescales and targets	a) by September 2008 b) and c) by April 2009
Cost	Low



Community centre

Spring Clean	
Actions or tasks	Arrange an annual Spring Clean: a community litter pick, street cleaning, tidying up footpaths, cycle ways and public spaces. Seek to clean up graffiti and, if possible, repair results of vandalism.
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	Cleaner streets, footpaths, cycle ways and open spaces.
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	More attractive to visitors, encourages civic pride
Partners (lead in bold)	SDC , SP, STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	First Spring Clean in April 2008
Cost	Low
Priority	High
More information	Some resources available from SDC

Events	
Actions or tasks	Regular community events including Summer Fair, plant sales, Carol Service Develop new community events e.g. horticultural show
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	A range of events for all sections of the community
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Attract visitors; enhance community spirit; extra trade for businesses.
Partners (lead in bold)	BC, SP , STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	Ongoing
Cost	Medium
Priority	Low



Carol service

Market	
Actions or tasks	Develop a new market. Possibly combining elements of Farmers' Markets, WI Markets, Flea Markets, Charity Fairs etc.
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	A regular market in the town centre
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Attract visitors; enhance community spirit; extra trade for businesses.
Partners (lead in bold)	BC, SP , STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	First market in Spring 2009
Cost	Low
Priority	Low

Flooding and emergency planning	
Actions or tasks	Review flood damage in the town and develop projects to alleviate potential problems Review emergency plans to learn lessons from floods of 2007
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	Problem areas identified and solutions proposed Emergency plans updated
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	Reduced risk of flood damage Effective emergency plans in place
Partners (lead in bold)	TC, SDC
Milestones, timescales and targets	Review by end 2008
Cost	Low
Priority	High



Floods 2007

Sports	
Actions or tasks	a) Research demand for sports not currently provided for b) Improve existing facilities for sport and play c) <i>If necessary after a)</i> extend the range of facilities available.
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	a) Report on demand for sports b) Repaired and upgraded sports grounds and playgrounds c) <i>If necessary after a)</i> New facilities for additional sports and activities
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	A wider variety of sport and recreational activities. Increased participation in sport and play. Health improvements.
Partners (lead in bold)	STC, SP, SDC
Milestones, timescales and targets	a) September 2009 b) by end 2009 c) to be determined after b)
Cost	Medium
Priority	High
More information	See Healthcheck for more information on the range of sports and play facilities available.

Young Stonehouse	
Actions or tasks	Create a youth council Improve facilities for young people. Research arts based projects for young people
Output (i.e. what the physical or immediate result is)	a) Establishment of a youth council. b) A new youth centre to replace the Elm Road building c) Project plans developed
Outcome (i.e. what effect this result will have)	An opportunity for young people to have a voice in public affairs. Young people take pride in the town and develop and sense of ownership. Somewhere for young people to go.
Partners (lead in bold)	GCC, SDC, SP , STC
Milestones, timescales and targets	a) by January 2008 (already completed) b) by the end of 2009 c) by the end of 2010
Cost	a) low b) high c) low
Priority	High



Youth centre

Themes

In order to demonstrate how the Projects will address the issues identified the plan has been grouped into four themes, which largely follow on from the sections of the Healthcheck. The themes are:

- Social and community
- Business and tourism
- Getting around
- Environment

Theme 1: Social and community

Many people describe Stonehouse as a town with a strong sense of community, but there are opportunities for greater integration. There are few activities for young people, especially teenagers. The Youth Club's continued use of the building in Elm Road is uncertain. The range of sports available within the town is limited.



Football pitches, Oldend Lane

There are problems with graffiti, litter, vandalism and antisocial behaviour, all of which contribute to a heightened fear of crime.



Litter and graffiti

There are limited facilities for adult education and public internet access.

Issues
Crime, vandalism, youth problems and antisocial behaviour Not enough police on the beat Need more for young people to do Not enough General Recreational Facilities; Entertainment

Aims	Objectives
A safe place to live with a strong community spirit	People feel safe to go out, including at night.
	People feel safe in their homes.
	Effective policing and crime prevention.
	Low crime rates.
Things to do for people of all ages	The generations live in harmony.
	A wide range of community groups and activities.
	Community youth centre.
	Regular cultural and social events.
Healthy, fit people	A regular community newsletter.
	A good choice of sports and fitness activities.
Sustainable and attractive buildings and communities	Access to healthcare facilities for all.
	Adequate supply of affordable housing.
Quality Education for all	Popular and successful schools.
	Opportunities for lifelong learning.

Key Projects	Contributing projects
Community communications Events Flooding and emergency planning Historic Stonehouse Social/community centre Sports Young Stonehouse	Canals Footpaths and cycle paths Market Shared space Spring Clean

Theme 2: Business and tourism

The High Street businesses provide a good range of shops and services. Most are feeling confident, but also vulnerable to competition from the supermarkets and concerned about accessible parking for their customers.



High Street

The High Street area will benefit greatly from the Shared Space project, which will reduce the impact of traffic and improve the attractiveness of the town for shoppers and visitors.

Stonehouse is an important employment centre for the district, drawing workers from far and wide. The industrial and commercial estates are remote from the town centre; more could be done to encourage workers and employers to use the shops and services in the High Street.



Dairycrest

Stonehouse is not a tourist destination, but has the potential to attract more visitors either to the High Street, the canal, walkers from the Cotswold Way National Trail or cyclists.

Issues
Retail and services mix Need to encourage tourism and promote the town

Aims	Objectives
Open for business	A comprehensive range of local shops and services.
	An attractive and distinctive High Street.
	An employment centre for the district
	The business community an integral part of the town.
Uncommonly welcoming to visitors	A good range of quality accommodation and places to eat and drink.
	A place to stop not just to drive through.
	Lots for visitors to see and do.
	Visitor information easily accessible, including on Internet.

Key Projects	Contributing projects
Business networks Canals Shared space	Community communications Events Footpaths and cycle paths Historic Stonehouse Market

Theme 3: Getting around

Stonehouse is very well connected, with good access to the national road network, frequent trains to London, Gloucester and Cheltenham and regular buses to Stroud and Gloucester from Stonehouse and most surrounding villages.

Connections to Bristol, Cardiff and the Southwest by public transport are more difficult, but could be greatly improved by reopening the Bristol Road station.

Traffic volumes are a big issue for the town, especially in the High Street. There are regular problems with congestion on the two main through routes: the B4008 and A419 and junctions onto them. The Shared Space project seeks to address some of the traffic issues in the High Street area.



Footpath west of the Berryfield

Many of the footpaths and bridleways in and around the town, are in need of maintenance or improvements. Opportunities will be sought to create new routes, especially links from the town centre to the canal and the industrial areas.



High Street traffic

Encouraging walking and cycle will have the dual benefits of reducing road traffic and providing health benefits.

Issues
Traffic volumes Parking regulations not enforced Encourage walking and cycling Improve public transport Speeding

Aims	Objectives
Networks of safe roads, footpaths and cycle ways	Less speeding.
	Fewer accidents.
	Parking regulations enforced.
	People feel safe to walk and cycle.
Healthy, fit people	Surroundings which encourage walking and cycling, including a comprehensive network of footpaths/cycle paths.
Open and accessible to all	Good road links within the district and to the wider road network.
	Buildings, crossings and pavements suitable for all.
	Bus and train services when and where people need them.

Key Projects	Contributing projects
Footpaths and cycle paths Shared space	Canals

Theme 4: Environment

Stonehouse is an attractive town, with many historic and interesting buildings. The industrial areas are not attractive, but the town does have many green spaces and pleasant views of the Cotswold hills.



Bluebell wood southwest of Stonehouse

In the urban area there are some grotty areas which require attention.



Ponds to rear of Midland Road (Key Wildlife site)

Stonehouse is a popular town for business and residential development and is likely to continue to grow in the near future. It is important that development is appropriate and sustainable; on the right sites and meeting the needs of the town.

There is keen interest in environmental projects with many groups and individuals keen to reduce their carbon footprints. The Town Council for example is already looking at alternative energy sources for their vehicles and premises.

Issues
Crime, vandalism, youth problems and antisocial behaviour Litter Dog mess Grotty areas Inappropriate development

Aims	Objectives
Sustainable and attractive buildings and communities	Adequate supply of affordable housing.
	Appropriate development (in accordance with the Design Statement) including new buildings well integrated with the existing ones.
	New developments meet the highest possible standards of sustainable design and building shown in the "Code for Sustainable Homes".
Environmentally friendly	Attractive and well maintained streets, footpaths and cycle ways.
	Open spaces free from litter, fly tipping, dog mess, vandalism and graffiti.
	Facilities for and schemes to encourage recycling and community composting.
	Wildlife and habitats protected for the future.

Key Projects	Contributing projects
Sustainable Stonehouse Community composting Spring Clean	Canals Footpaths and cycle paths

Lobbying/cooperation

Many of the aims and objectives of the plan concern actions which are beyond the remit of the Partnership, but are issues that can be addressed by lobbying and cooperating with the relevant authorities. These issues are listed below.

There may also be opportunities to contribute to initiatives or projects developed by member groups of the Partnership and other local authorities.

OBJECTIVE	Work with:
People feel safe to go out, including at night. People feel safe in their homes. Effective policing and crime prevention. Low crime rates.	Local police Stroud Crime and Disorder Partnership
Less speeding Fewer accidents People feel safe to walk and cycle.	Local police Stroud Crime and Disorder Partnership GCC Highways department
Parking regulations enforced Adequate supply of affordable housing.	SDC SDC
Appropriate development (in accordance with the Design Statement) including new buildings well integrated with the existing ones.	SDC
New developments meet the highest possible standards of sustainable design and building in the “Code for Sustainable homes”.	SDC
Good road links within the district and to the wider road network	GCC Highways
Crossings and pavements suitable for all. Bus and train services when and where people need them (<i>especially reopening of Bristol Road station</i>)	GCC Highways GCC Transport Service providers
Attractive and well maintained streets, footpaths, and cycle ways. Open spaces free from litter, fly tipping, dog mess, vandalism and graffiti.	SDC GCC Local police
Facilities for and schemes to encourage recycling Wildlife and habitats protected for the future.	SDC GWT Stroud Valleys Project
A good choice of sports and fitness activities Access to healthcare facilities for all	SDC Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust
Surroundings which encourage walking and cycling, including a comprehensive network of footpaths/cycle paths.	GCC Highways SDC
Popular and successful schools	Local schools GCC Education Independent schools
Opportunities for lifelong learning	GCC Education Learning providers

Quick Wins

In order to establish the Partnership and to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Community Plan process it is essential that several high profile projects are achieved early on the life of the plan. The Quick Wins are:

- Launch of Partnership website
- First edition of new Newsletter
- Spring Clean

Maximum publicity will be sought for these projects to help raise the public profile of the Partnership.

Sources of funding and support

The following sources of funding are already or potentially available for projects to be initiated under this plan.

Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTI)

The Partnership was successful in securing a funding package worth £20,000 from the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative. The package also includes the facility to obtain training on website development, which has already been provided for 4 people leading to the launch of a website in January 2008. Free consultancy on a range of topics is also available.

Contributions from Partners

The members of the Partnership will provide support in the form of grants for individual projects and in the case of the District and County Councils officer time and direct funding.

Stroud District Council grants

The **Rural and Community Investment Scheme (R&CIS)** is aimed at local communities and the voluntary sector. It awards grants to projects and schemes that enable people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote learning, the environment and health in the community. Revenue funding is also available for voluntary sector organisations to provide financial and human resource. Information on how to apply for 2009/2010 will be available from April 2008.

The **Youth Initiative Fund**: The Stroud District Youth Council has its own budget for making grant awards to young people's projects. Past grants have been for projects varying from theatre to skiing, basketball to video making and from driving to music making. Further information on the Youth Initiative Fund can be found on the [Youth Council](#) website.

Shopfront Improvement Grants offer up to 50% of the cost of improvement works.

Three Sector Match

Three Sector Match www.threesectormatch.co.uk is an organisation which aims to encourage businesses and third sector organisations to work together for the benefit of Gloucestershire communities by exchanging skills and experience. The scheme operates across the whole of Gloucestershire 'matching' the needs of social enterprises, voluntary organisations and community groups with pro bono professional advice and expertise from the commercial and public sectors.

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) “enables sustainable community development and empowers community groups not only through its project work but also through its team of district based rural advisers who offer general advice and support to rural communities on community and parish planning, funding, capacity building, project development and management.”

Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

There are two methods of receiving funding through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). Either from an organisation that distributes the monies on a landfill operator's behalf, these are commonly known as **Distributive Environmental Bodies (DEBs)**, or directly from a **Landfill Operator (LO)**. You are far more likely to receive money via a DEB than you are directly from a waste management company. To apply for funding you normally have to register first with Entrust www.entrust.org.uk; the Government-appointed regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

Stonehouse is within 10 miles of two landfill sites (Hempsted and The Perryway), so is in the catchment area for funding under the following schemes run by Distributive Environmental Body (DEB) Funders in Gloucestershire:

The **Gloucestershire Environmental Trust Company** www.glos-environment-trust.co.uk provides grants of usually no more than £20,000 for projects in Gloucestershire involving:

- Remediation of contaminated land,
- Prevention of pollution,
- Community improvement schemes,
- Restoration of the built environment, or
- Facilitating work through bio-diversity conservation.

Global Environmental Management Trust Limited (GEM Trust) www.gem-trust.org provides up to £25,000 for projects involving:

- The provision, maintenance or improvement of a general public amenity,
- The conservation of a species or habitat where it naturally occurs, or
- The restoration of a Church or Historic Building.

Biffaward www.biffaward.org managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts offers three levels of funding relevant to Stonehouse. N.B. projects must be within 10 or 25 miles of a Biffa site; Stonehouse is within 10 miles of the Gloucester depot.

- Main Grants - Community £5,000 to £50,000 for projects that provide and improve community facilities,
- Main Grants - Biodiversity £5,000 to £50,000 for projects that conserve wildlife species and habitats, or
- Small Grants £250 to £5,000 for projects that enable communities to improve local amenities and to conserve wildlife.

CEMEX Community Fund Limited www.cemexcf.org.uk provides grants of up to £15,000 for projects which are within 10 miles (but preferably within 3 miles) of a CEMEX quarry, landfill or high impacting site and support the following objects:

- The provision, maintenance or improvement of a general public amenity
- The conservation of a species or habitat where it naturally occurs
- The restoration of a Church or Historic Building

The Cemex landfill site at The Perryway, Frampton is about 4 miles from the centre of Stonehouse.

Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum

The **Quick Win Scheme** provides up to £2,500 which can be used for small projects, initial studies for larger projects, or to contribute towards matched funding for the implementation of larger projects.

O2 It's Your Community

It's Your Community www.o2.com is an awards programme to "help people come together to make a real difference to the communities in which they live". Awards of up to £1,000 are available to local groups and individuals, for anything that will benefit the community. The website says "Whatever your idea, simply fill in the form and do your best to persuade us."

National Lottery

There are now so many lottery funds to consider, that it is not practicable at this point to detail all of them. When the project plans are further developed the website www.lotteryfunding.org.uk will help to identify potential funds to apply to. The most relevant funds are likely to be:

[Arts Council England](#) is the national development agency for the arts in England, distributing public money from Government and the National Lottery.

[Awards for All](#): a Lottery grants programme aimed at local communities. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available for people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

[Big Lottery Fund](#): committed to improving communities and the lives of people most in need. Includes:

Reaching Communities which provides grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 for projects that respond to needs identified by communities, and actively involve them. "We want to fund projects that help those most in need including those people or groups who are hard to reach. We will give support to those projects we think best meet their communities' needs."

[Heritage Lottery Fund](#): uses money from the National Lottery to give grants for a wide range of projects involving the local, regional and national heritage of the United Kingdom.

[Sport England](#): funds projects that help people get involved in sport and physical activity. This includes refurbishing existing facilities or building new ones and developing programmes and initiatives that use sport and activity to support community cohesion, improve health and raise education levels.

Futurebuilders England

Futurebuilders England is a government-backed fund offering support and investment to third sector organisations to deliver public services. They offer a combination of loans, grants and professional support to build the capacity of third sector organisations who want to deliver better public services, but **not** stand-alone grants.

Gloucestershire Community Foundation

www.gloucestershirecommunityfoundation.co.uk The Foundation provides a range of grants including:

Strategic Grants for between £500 - £4,000, **Small Grants Programme** and **Rapid Response Grants** offer up to £1,000 to meet immediate small expenses.

New Initiative Grants of £100 to £1,000 cover local research and feasibility studies.

Sports Relief Fund: grants of between £500 and £5000 for community or voluntary groups which are trying to use sport and exercise to strengthen communities and provide opportunities for people who are excluded or disadvantaged through low income, rural or social isolation, age, disability, race, sexuality or gender by doing the following:

- Increasing access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation.
- Helping people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives to regain their confidence and self esteem.
- Encouraging people to take part in sporting activities that bring communities together.

Applicants must be a registered charity or constituted for charitable purposes, based in and operating in Gloucestershire.

South West Foundation - Small Grants Fund

Small Grant Programme offers grants up to £500. The programme is aimed at small Voluntary and Community Organisations with charitable aims supporting people most in need in communities and focuses on rural areas, market and coastal towns.

www.southwestfoundation.org.uk

Corporate grant schemes

Many national and international companies operate community grant schemes. Generally the project has to be within a minimum distance from the companies' premises and fit a strict set of criteria. Some examples which might be relevant to Stonehouse are shown in **Appendix C**.

Charitable trusts

There are many charitable trusts which provide grants for good causes. The following either support projects in Gloucestershire, of the type identified in this plan. Funds are often limited and the eligibility criteria are usually very strict, so inclusion on this list is not a guarantee that funds would be available. Note that most schemes insist on the applicant being a properly constituted community organisation, with proper financial records; and in some instances only registered charities may apply. Some examples which might be relevant to Stonehouse are shown in **Appendix D**.

Strategic context

In this section Stonehouse's Vision, Aims and Objectives will be considered in terms of how they fit strategically with other relevant authorities. Strategies will be considered from the top down.

Government Office South West

Government Office South West sets out its plans in the document Corporate Plan 2007-2010 which can be read at www.gos.gov.uk All of Stonehouse's objectives are covered by the Regional Plan:

Key Strategic Aims 2007/10	Stonehouse Objectives
<p>Crime and drugs People feel safer in their homes and daily lives. Offenders are properly managed to stop re-offending and victims are better supported. Fewer people's lives are ruined by anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol.</p>	<p>People feel safe to go out, including at night. People feel safe in their homes. Effective policing and crime prevention. Low crime rates.</p>
<p>Cohesive communities Provide leadership to local and regional stakeholders in creating cohesive and active communities with a thriving third sector, in which people of all races, faiths and backgrounds feel safe, are valued and participative, and feel part of an inclusive civic society that is united against violent extremism and terrorism.</p>	<p>The generations live in harmony. A wide range of community groups and activities. Regular cultural and social events. A regular community newsletter. Attractive and well maintained streets, footpaths, and cycle ways. Open spaces free from litter, fly tipping, dog mess, vandalism and graffiti. A good choice of sports and fitness activities. Surroundings which encourage walking and cycling, including a comprehensive network of footpaths/cycle paths.</p>
<p>Equality: Ensure that public sector equality duty statutory requirements (race, disability and gender) are taken into account in our employment practices and policy, and in regional and local programme delivery outcomes.</p>	
<p>Children Improvements in performance are made within the region against each of the five elements of the Every Child Matters: Change for Children report. 2</p>	<p>Community youth centre. Popular and successful schools.</p>

Key Strategic Aims 2007/10	Stonehouse Objectives
<p>Housing & Planning Address long-term housing affordability issues by helping to increase the supply of housing and the provision of supporting infrastructure, to ensure well-designed and sustainable communities delivered through responsive spatial planning.</p>	<p>Adequate supply of affordable housing. Appropriate development (in accordance with the Design Statement) including new buildings well integrated with the existing ones.</p>
<p>Transport Ensure an approach to transport planning and delivery at all levels that is evidence based, realistic and firmly embedded in wider spatial, economic and community planning and implementation, so that the needs of economy, environment and society are balanced.</p>	<p>Less speeding. Fewer accidents. Parking regulations enforced. People feel safe to walk and cycle. Good road links within the district and to the wider road network. Buildings, crossings and pavements suitable for all. Bus and train services when and where people need them.</p>
<p>Economic performance Make sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions and over the long term reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions.</p> <p>Employment Help increase the employment rate and narrow the employment gap between the most disadvantaged groups and the overall working age population.</p>	<p>A comprehensive range of local shops and services. An attractive and distinctive High Street. An employment centre for the district The business community an integral part of the town. A good range of quality accommodation and places to eat and drink. A place to stop not just to drive through. Lots for visitors to see and do. Visitor information easily accessible, including on Internet. Opportunities for lifelong learning.</p>
<p>Sustainability Promote the long-term sustainability of regions, including through reduced carbon emissions and sustainable use of the regions' environmental resources. We lead by example in embedding sustainable development principles in the Government Office.</p>	<p>New developments meet the highest possible standards of sustainable design and building shown in the "Code for Sustainable homes". Facilities for and schemes to encourage recycling and community composting. Wildlife and habitats protected for the future.</p>

Key Strategic Aims 2007/10	Stonehouse Objectives
<p>Health Improve people's health and wellbeing, support independence and reduce health inequalities in the region. Promote arrangements which enhance public health capacity and capability and that support relevant bodies to work together, with a particular focus on NHS involvement in Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and LAAs.</p>	Access to healthcare facilities for all.
<p>Olympics Plan for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the realisation of sustainable legacy benefits of the Games.</p>	
<p>Responding to emergencies Respond smoothly and effectively to large-scale wide-impact emergencies so that the impact on human welfare, environment and security of the UK is minimised.</p>	

Gloucestershire County Council

The County Councils aims and objectives are contained in the document: *Working together, improving the quality of life for Gloucestershire people. Your County Council Corporate Strategy 2006 onwards* which can be read on their website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

All of Stonehouse's objectives are covered by the County Council strategy:

GCC AIMS	GCC OBJECTIVES	Stonehouse objectives
AIM 1 Making our communities safer	Working with the Police and others to reduce crime, the fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour	People feel safe to go out, including at night. People feel safe in their homes. Effective policing and crime prevention. Low crime rates. Parking regulations enforced. Open spaces free from litter, fly tipping, dog mess, vandalism and graffiti.
	Reducing drug and alcohol misuse	
	Reducing fires and accidents in the home and on our roads	
	Improving our ability to respond to any new emergencies, and to minimise the consequences.	
AIM 2 Supporting communities and vulnerable people	Promoting independence for all	The generations live in harmony. Adequate supply of affordable housing. A good choice of sports and fitness activities. Access to healthcare facilities for all. Surroundings which encourage
	Enabling more people to stay in their own homes	
	Strengthening communities and enabling people to live safe and satisfying lives	
	Encouraging healthy lifestyles	

GCC AIMS	GCC OBJECTIVES	Stonehouse objectives
	Developing strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and circumstances.	walking and cycling, including a comprehensive network of footpaths/cycle paths. A wide range of community groups and activities. Regular cultural and social events. A regular community newsletter.
AIM 3 Ensuring every child thrives and reaches their potential	Improving outcomes for all children and young people	Popular and successful schools. Community youth centre.
	Reducing the gap between good outcomes for most and poor outcomes for some	
	Re-shaping services to ensure the right mix of high-quality universal, targeted and specialist provision.	
AIM 4 Making transport work	Improving the condition of county roads	Less speeding. Fewer accidents.
	Better traffic management to make the best use of the existing transport infrastructure	People feel safe to walk and cycle. Good road links within the district and to the wider road network.
	Reducing the harmful impact of transport (especially lorries) on the environment	Surroundings which encourage walking and cycling, including a comprehensive network of footpaths/cycle ways.
	Integrating our transport systems to better support regeneration and growth	Bus and train services when and where people need them.
	Giving people more choice where there are viable alternatives to the car.	Buildings, crossings and pavements suitable for all.
AIM 5 Managing our environment and economy	Protecting and enhancing our built and natural environment	Attractive and well maintained streets, footpaths, and cycle ways. Appropriate development (in accordance with the Design Statement) including new buildings well integrated with the existing ones. Wildlife and habitats protected for the future.
	Supporting business development and attracting investment	A comprehensive range of local shops and services. An attractive and distinctive High Street. An employment centre for the district The business community an integral part of the town. A good range of quality accommodation and places to eat and drink.
	Improving skills and helping people back to work	Opportunities for lifelong learning.

GCC AIMS	GCC OBJECTIVES	Stonehouse objectives
	Working for regeneration in partnership with other organisations	A place to stop not just to drive through. Lots for visitors to see and do. Visitor information easily accessible, including on Internet.
	Managing waste in a sustainable way	Facilities for and schemes to encourage recycling and community composting.
	Developing strategies to tackle the local effects of climate change.	New developments meet the highest possible standards of sustainable design and building shown in the "Code for Sustainable homes".

Stroud District Council

Stroud District Council sets out its strategy in the document *Corporate Delivery Plan 2005-2009* which can be read at www.stroud.gov.uk

Stroud District Council		Stonehouse
Council Priority	Compared to 2004 what do we want to have achieved as a result of our investment in this priority?	Objectives
<p>Community Safety: Creating safer and stronger communities</p>	<p>Reduced levels of crime and disorder in the District. Reduced levels of fear of crime by addressing anti-social behaviour and substance abuse A community that feels more cared for, connected and confident.</p>	<p>People feel safe to go out, including at night. People feel safe in their homes. Effective policing and crime prevention. Low crime rates. Parking regulations enforced. A wide range of community groups and activities. Regular cultural and social events. A regular community newsletter. Open spaces free from litter, fly tipping, dog mess, vandalism and graffiti.</p>
<p>Affordable Housing: To provide affordable and decent housing</p>	<p>The private and social housing sectors delivering more affordable homes than would have been without Council intervention. The Decent Homes Standard achieved for the Council's own Housing stock. More homes in the private sector that meet the Decent Homes Standard.</p>	<p>Adequate supply of affordable housing.</p>
<p>Environment: To create a better local environment.</p>	<p>Public spaces, which are perceived to be cared for, clean and green. A rate of growth of household waste that is below national levels and an increased recycling rate. Greater domestic energy efficiency and the use of renewable technologies, which are appropriate for the District.</p>	<p>New developments meet the highest possible standards of sustainable design and building shown in the "Code for Sustainable homes". Attractive and well maintained streets, footpaths, and cycle ways. Facilities for and schemes to encourage recycling and community composting.</p>

Stroud District Council		Stonehouse
Council Priority	Compared to 2004 what do we want to have achieved as a result of our investment in this priority?	Objectives
Regeneration: Promoting the economic vitality of our towns and villages	Local towns and villages that are able to take action to tackle local needs. More local business start-ups / inward investment. Established a clear way forward for key regeneration sites – Cotswold Canals, Lister-Petter and Sharpness Docks. The numbers of tourist visiting the District will have increased. Established a planning service, which is business friendly and amongst the best in the country. Helped others to improve the coverage and quality of community and public transport.	A comprehensive range of local shops and services. An attractive and distinctive High Street. An employment centre for the district The business community an integral part of the town. Appropriate development (in accordance with the Design Statement) including new buildings well integrated with the existing ones. A good range of quality accommodation and places to eat and drink. A place to stop not just to drive through. Lots for visitors to see and do. Visitor information easily accessible, including on Internet. Bus and train services when and where people need them.
Healthy Living: To promote health and well-being.	Better use of our sport, leisure, cultural and food safety services in encouraging healthy lifestyles. Help older people to live independently and for longer in their own homes. Better levels of engagement with and improved services for younger people and children.	The generations live in harmony. Community youth centre. A good choice of sports and fitness activities. Access to healthcare facilities for all. Surroundings which encourage walking and cycling, including a comprehensive network of footpaths/cycle paths.

Understandably some of the Stonehouse objectives are not covered by the District Council's strategy, simply because they fall into areas beyond their remit, for example highways and education. Not covered are:

- Less speeding.
- Fewer accidents.
- People feel safe to walk and cycle.
- Good road links within the district and to the wider road network.
- Buildings, crossings and pavements suitable for all.
- Popular and successful schools.
- Opportunities for lifelong learning.
- Wildlife and habitats protected for the future.

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (LTP2)

The Local Transport Plan for Gloucestershire sets out a vision and objectives for transport in the county. The whole document can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Many of the objectives for Stonehouse are mirrored by the Local Transport Plan.

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011			Stonehouse
Vision Objectives	Description	Strategy Objectives	Objectives
Maintenance and Improvement	Manage, maintain and improve the transport network to meet local transport needs more effectively for all users.	Make best use of the network Address the maintenance backlog Improve the network to meet needs of all users	Attractive and well maintained streets, footpaths and cycle ways.
Economy and Integration	Provide a transport system that assists today's economy and the economic development of the county, and Integrate all forms of transport, land use and economic planning leading to a better more efficient transport system.	Provide a transport system that supports regeneration and sustainable growth	Good road links within the district and to the wider road network.
Safety	Reduce the number and severity of road accidents; and improve personal security to reduce the fear or crime particularly for users of public transport, pedestrians and cyclists.	To reduce all road casualties including and especially killed and seriously injured Improve community safety	Less speeding. Fewer accidents

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011			Stonehouse
Vision Objectives	Description	Strategy Objectives	Objectives
Accessibility	Enable high quality access to services by all forms of transport. Of particular importance will be meeting the transport needs for those without access to cars, and meeting the needs of those with disabilities.	Enable high quality access to services by all forms of transport To provide financially sustainable access to services for those without cars, particularly in rural areas To meet the needs of people with disabilities	Buildings, crossings and pavements suitable for all.
Real Choices and Awareness	Provide people with viable alternatives to the car. This will mean providing public transport and facilities for walking and cycling journeys, whilst acknowledging that there is a role for the car, particularly in rural areas, and Raise awareness of alternative ways to travel; the impact of transport on the environment; and the health benefits of walking and cycling.	Make best use of existing infrastructure Provision of new and improvements to existing infrastructure Facilitate use of alternatives to the car	People feel safe to walk and cycle. Surroundings which encourage walking and cycling, including a comprehensive network of footpaths/cycle paths. Bus and train services when and where people need them.
Environment	Reduce air and noise pollution and the harmful physical impacts of transport on both the natural and built environment.	Improve air quality throughout the county Reduce the impact of road transport on communities and the environment	

In particular the Local Transport Plan draws attention to the following issues for Stonehouse:

- congestion on the A419 between Stonehouse and the M5,
- the high volume of people commuting to Bristol and Bath by car because of the poor rail links to Bristol,

- the possible re-opening of Stonehouse (Bristol Road) station,
- (as part of the canals restoration programme) the opportunity to create an east to west spine (cycle) route across the Stroud and Stonehouse areas along the towpaths of the Stroudwater Navigation and Thames and Severn canal, including links to the town centres and other key destinations.

References

“Life Expectancy At Birth 1998-2002” from MAIDeN

Indices of Deprivation from MAIDeN

OfSTED - school inspection reports

Stonehouse Design Statement

Stonehouse Healthcheck (2007)

'Stonehouse: Economic history', A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 10: Westbury and Whitstone Hundreds (1972), www.british-history.ac.uk

Appendix A Healthcheck Consultation

This section contains a summary of the results of surveys conducted during preparation of the Healthcheck report and consultation exercises conducted following publication of the draft report.

Postcard Competition

Postcards were distributed in Stonehouse between July and September 2005 as follows:

- Handed out at the "We'll Meet Again" event: the Summer Fair on 9th July 2005,
- left at the Library and local doctors' surgeries July 2005,
- 13th Sep 2005 and 20th Sep 2005 delivered to random areas of Stonehouse, and
- 19th Sep 2005 100 postcards given out at the door of the Town Hall (to people entering the Post Office or Town Hall).

The postcard offered a range of prizes and asked three questions:

- The 3 things that I like most about Stonehouse are:
- The 3 things that I dislike most about Stonehouse are:
- If there were one thing that could be done to make Stonehouse a better place it would be:

189 completed cards were received. The comments were grouped into categories according to the issues addressed. Overall there were 536 "likes" and "461" dislikes.

The table below records the mostly commonly mentioned issues. The colours represent the four overall themes of the Healthcheck report:

Economy
Social and community
Environment
Transport and accessibility

TOP TEN LIKES	No.	Comments	TOP TEN DISLIKES	No.	Comments
Range of Shops/Services	100	Big enough to be useful/ Banks/ Hurn's & Butchers/ Co-op/ Bailey's/ Takeaways/ Post Office/ Bookies/ Individual family run shops/ Not commercialised/ Chemist/ Charity Shops/ Cafes/ Food Shops	Range of Shops/Services	62	Lack of shops & variety/ Too many takeaways/ travel agents/ estate agents/ The Co-op/ Too many charity shops/ Chemist/ No clothes or shoe shops/ Not enough food shops (Grocers)/ Betting shops/ needs another large store*/ Travelscope/ Elgin Mall
Sense of Community/ Friendly People	59	Village feel/ Good mix of ages & social groups/People polite	Volume of Traffic	47	Especially Town Centre/ Due to M5 Links/ Horsetrough/ Lorries
Rural setting/ Green & Open Public Spaces	37	Wildlife/ Birds/ buildings	Litter	41	Park Estate/ Chewing gum/ Little Australia/ Lack of bins/ People ignoring bins/ Oldend Lane/ Rubbish out too early/ stream at Little Australia & Meadow Rd/ lack of bins/ from takeaways
Proximity to Main Roads/ Rail Networks (M5 etc.)	37		Policing	25	Police Station never open/ Lack of Police presence
Size/ Layout/ Convenience of town	33	Not too big	Lack of Dog Bins/ Dog Fouling	25	
Flat	30		Youths hanging around	25	Particularly creating noise at night/ including drugs and drink/ Park Estate/ Wycliffe students smoking
Public Transport	23		Speeding	21	Bristol Road/ Oldend Lane/ Laburnum Walk/ High Street
General Appearance	21	Well maintained/ Clean/ Dedicated maintenance team/ Pretty/ Especially High Street	Poor/ Illegal Parking	16	Gloucester Road/ Queens Road/ High Street/ Regent Street/ Misuse of disabled bays & bus stops/ Peripheral housing estates
Playgrounds/ parks/ sports & playing fields	18	Berryfield/ Changing facilities	Pedestrian Facilities	14	Lack of crossings - Park Estate to Playing Fields/ uneven pavements/ inadequate crossing/ No seating
Parking	18	Always room/ cheap	Public Transport	14	Buses late unreliable / Bus stops too far away/ Bristol-Gloucester Line station unused*/ No late night service/ Bus Service to SW/ Lack of/ No National Express pick up point/ inappropriately placed bus shelters

There were lots of different suggestions for the one thing that could be done to make Stonehouse a better place. The most popular 15 were:

Thing to be done	No. of mentions
More visible presence of the Police, more Police on the beat	27
More facilities and activities for children	16
Reduce traffic volume and vehicle size through town	11
More shops - clothing/ shoes	11
More traffic management & calming	10
Swimming pool	7
Improve community buildings/facilities	7
Reduce crime. Introduce crime prevention measures	7
Leisure Centre	6
More attractions - boating/canal walks/mooring point/pub on canal	6
Litter campaign/more bins/more regular cleaning	6
More shops - general	5
Create affordable housing	5
Respect	4
More shops – chemist	4

Summer Fair 2007

The Partnership displayed boards in the community centre at the Summer Fair on 23rd June 2007 showing some of the main facts and figures from the Healthcheck report, together with many photographs of the town. Visitors were asked to comment on the displays and in particular to write down what they like and dislike about the town. The comments have been analysed and the results are shown below.

The afternoon of the Fair was extremely wet, which meant that attendance was low, but conversely it did mean that many people sheltering from the rain in the community centre took part who might not otherwise have done so.

The most frequent comments are listed below:

- 7 favourable comments about shops and services, including 3 mentions of the completeness of the range on offer,
- 4 referred to the town's good community spirit,
- 3 complaints about the poor condition of footpaths and bridleways,
- 3 complaints about vandalism,
- 3 mentions of the lack of police on the beat, and
- 3 people said they like Stonehouse as a place to live.

Consultation Evening 24th July 2007

The Partnership held a consultation evening at the Town Hall on 24th July 2007. Invitations were sent to community groups and organisations and posters were displayed around the town advertising the event.

23 people attended representing a range of groups including the Town Council, District Council, County Council, Stonehouse Partnership and community groups from the town. It should be noted that the event coincided with water supplies to the town being cut off as a result of the recent heavy floods in Gloucestershire and this undoubtedly affected attendance. Although numbers were reduced those present took part in a lively and productive workshop.

Participants were asked to study displays of the key facts and figures from the Healthcheck report and discuss and record a SWOT analysis under the four headings of:

- Environment
- Economy
- Social and community
- Transport and accessibility.

The full draft Healthcheck document was also available for reference.

The results of the SWOT analysis are summarised in the following tables. The numbers in brackets show how many times the issue was mentioned. Note that some issues transect more than one heading, for example the canal regeneration is seen as a strength, an opportunity and a threat and appears in several sections.

SWOT: ECONOMY

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
(5) Good range of local shops, services and facilities. "Everything is here" (2) Tourism: attractions in environs and flat (1) Wycliffe College	(8) Retail mix: too many non-retail and empty shops, High Street vulnerable to take over or closure of key businesses (2) Vacant shops (1) Boot sale too far out of town (1) Tourism: towpath overgrown
OPPORTUNITY	THREAT
(7) Promote the town, e.g. tourist information, maps, trails. Develop the town's identity as a place to "stop and linger in" as opposed to driving through (5) Develop tourism from canal regeneration (4) Re-introduce Farmers' Market (3) Support Fairtrade and local shops (2) Encourage people to spend time in town by bringing in "slow food" (2) Encourage new tourist accommodation (1) Promote and develop opportunities for adult education	(2) Not enough funding for canal regeneration

SWOT: ENVIRONMENT

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
(5) Green spaces and trees, especially High Street (3) Canal and its restoration (2) Views (2) Level area (1) Cotswold Way (1) Doverow Hill (1) Not on flood plain (1) Rosedale	(5) Grotty areas, e.g. footpath at rear of Midland Railway Station; derelict urban sites; railway station and embankment; and car park. (2) Not enough litter bins (1) Dark enclosed places (1) Inappropriate use of dog bins (1) Parish Church remote from town centre
OPPORTUNITY	THREAT
(7) Encourage sustainable development and promote environmental schemes like community composting (4) Make better use of Town Greens (2) More trees in town centre (2) Improvement of shop fronts (1) Potential to use space over shops (1) Tidy up wildlife site by Court View	(9) Inappropriate development, e.g. Cotswold Green, Regent Street, field in front of Avenue Terrace, meadow owned by the residents of Pearcroft Road. Also too much housing; wrong mix and wrong sites by canal. (1) Flooding

SWOT: SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
(4) Number and range of community organisations and voluntary groups (3) Sports facilities (2) Balance of population: age ranges, hinterland/town (2) Stonehouse accessible and flat (1) Three GP surgeries (1) Community Centre (1) Community spirit (1) Excellent warden facilities and community police (1) Neighbourhood Project (1) Warden controlled housing (1) Youth POD	(6) Lack of community youth centre (2) Lack of NHS dental services (2) Library under-used (1) Misperception - more old people than young (1) Voluntary car service - requires more drivers
OPPORTUNITY	THREAT
(10) Celebrate the town's history and industrial heritage, perhaps with a museum or visitor trail (8) Improve community integration by developing links between town and industrial areas, community groups and Wycliffe College (4) Create affordable housing (3) New sports facilities (1) Promote indoor and outdoor recreation facilities	(1) Crime rate (1) 20% increase of population by 2026 (1) Stonehouse Neighbourhood Project closure

SWOT: TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
(4) Cheap parking (1) Evening bus service to Stroud (1) Cotswold Way and National Cycle Route (1) Good access from feeder villages (1) Lots of good cycle/footpaths (1) M5 good for town (1) Station (1) Transport (1) Weight restriction on B4008	(5) Access to footpaths hard for pushchairs/buggies, not enough drop kerbs, buses inaccessible (4) Highways problems e.g. Adverse camber on corner of Queens Road & High Street; B4008 junction with Standish Lane @ Standish Church; Flood water lingers outside The Frying Machine; traffic lights on railway bridge in Standish and by Standish Church. (1) Lack of enforcement of parking regulations along the High Street
OPPORTUNITY	THREAT
(16) Promote and develop foot and cycle paths (9) Improve public transport: Bus link to Cam (station); look at cost and frequency of buses and trains; open Station on Bristol line at Stonehouse and link to canal developments (3) Improve accessibility introduce Shopmobility, conduct access survey (1) Create more short term parking.	(1) Too much traffic in the town centre

Other consultation

The draft Healthcheck was circulated to managers at Stroud District Council who were invited to comment. Some useful feedback was received which has been incorporated into the final Healthcheck document.

The draft was also published on the Town Council's website and included contact details for comments or feedback. None were received.

Issues

Across all of the consultations many important issues were raised.

The 15 issues mentioned most were as follows:

ISSUE	COUNT	COMMENTS
Retail and services mix*	70	Too many takeaways, travel agents, estate agents, charity shops, betting shops; no clothes or shoe shops; not enough food shops (Grocers); needs another large store.
Traffic volumes	49	Especially town centre; due to M5 links; Horsetrough roundabout; lorries
Crime, vandalism, youth problems and antisocial behaviour	44	Vandalism; graffiti; noise at night; drugs and drink; Park Estate; Wycliffe students smoking.
Litter	44	Park Estate; chewing gum; Little Australia; lack of bins; people ignoring bins; Oldend Lane; rubbish out too early; stream at Little Australia & Meadow Rd; from takeaways
Dog mess	28	
Not enough police on the beat	28	Police Station never open; lack of police presence
Grotty areas	24	Lack of maintenance of bushes; not enough weeding of pavements; vandalism; parks not maintained; buildings not maintained; canal - unfinished; poor condition in derelict urban sites, poor railway station design, unkempt backdrop around car park, unkempt railway embankment, dark enclosed places.
Inappropriate development	24	Too much development; overcrowding, high density housing; Elgin Mall should not be residential; insufficient parking; too much development or building on greenfield or unsuitable sites
Parking regulations not enforced	22	Gloucester Road; Queens Road; High Street; Regent Street; misuse of disabled bays, taxi rank & bus stops; peripheral housing estates
Encourage walking and cycling	21	Promote cycle paths e.g. through maps/notice boards; develop new routes e.g. from town to canal, town to ind. estates; improve links and signage, convert footpaths to cycleways; 22% of households have no car
Improve public transport	21	Re-open Bristol line station, improve bus link to Cam (station), buses and trains expensive and infrequent, improve services and facilities generally; buses late and unreliable; bus stops too far away; No late night service; bus service

ISSUE	COUNT	COMMENTS
		to SW; No National Express pick up point; inappropriately placed bus shelters
Need more for young people to do	21	Children playing in the road Woodcock Lane; lack of community youth centre, POD only open one evening; the above average under 16's could soon become "problem" young adults.
Speeding	21	Bristol Road; Oldend Lane; Laburnum Walk; High Street
Not enough General Recreational Facilities; Entertainment	17	Need Folk Club; no cultural centre; especially for adults; poor access to Community Centre from Regent Street; no support for local clubs; Community Centre under-used; need a cinema; no bands; things for the elderly; not promoted; lack of leisure centre
Need to encourage tourism and promote the town	15	Capitalise on canal regeneration; need more accommodation; need for tourist information, maps and trails. Make Stonehouse an opportunity to "stop and linger in" as opposed to driving through "We are not a drive-thru we are a stopover". Market the High Street.

*Note that this issue was mentioned both negatively and positively. There were 70 negative comments, but the range of shops and services was also recorded as a strength 112 times.

Appendix B: Stonehouse town centre business survey

A survey was conducted in Spring 2007 of businesses operating in and around the town centre of Stonehouse including: Elgin Mall, Regent Street, Barnard Parade, Bath Road, High Street, Queens Road, Elm Road, Park Road and Gloucester Road.

Questionnaires were hand delivered to premises and collected a few weeks later. The questions (which are reproduced in full below) were designed to gauge the strength of and level of confidence in the local economy, and to identify any specific areas where businesses might need help and support. The results of the survey are shown below.

Question 1 Type of business

A wide range of businesses responded to the survey. They are classified below either by Use Class or using the categories used by Stroud District Council in their Market Towns study (to enable comparison with similar data in the future).

Use Classes

Class	Count
A1 – Shops	27
A2 – Financial and Professional Services	6
A3 – Restaurants and Cafes	1
A4 – Drinking Establishments	0
A5 – Hot Food Takeaway	1
B1 – Business	3
C1 – Residential Institutions	0
C3 – Dwelling Houses	0
D1 - Non Residential Institutions	0
D2 - Assembly and Leisure	0
Sui Generis (Sg) – Uses not falling within a Use Class	0

Market Towns categories

Category	Count
Convenience	11
Comparison	17
Food & Entertainment	2
Offices	3
Service	5
Total	38

Question 2 Location (e.g. town centre, industrial estate)

All respondents answered either “Town Centre” or one of the following: High Street, Elgin Mall, Regent Street, Barnard Parade, Bath Road, High Street, Queens Road, Elm Road, Park Road and Gloucester Road.

Question 3 Number of employees

(Note: Part time employees were counted as ½ an employee as no information was provided about how many hours they work.)

Most businesses employ 5 or fewer employees, but there were a few larger businesses. Altogether the 38 businesses in the survey employ 186 people.

No of employees	No.	%
0 to 5	29	76%
5 to 10	12	32%
11 to 20	2	5%
21 to 30	1	3%
over 30	0	0%

Question 4 Number of years in business

There was a wide range of responses to this questions ranging from 1 to 50. The 38 businesses between them have clocked up a total of 600 years in business, an average of about 16 years.

No of years	No.	%
1 to 5	13	34%
6 to 10	6	16%
11 to 15	2	5%
16 to 20	7	18%
21 to 30	3	8%
over 30	7	18%

Question 5 Is your business growing, shrinking or staying the same?

Most businesses were either growing or staying the same, with only 6 saying they were shrinking.

Size of business	No.	%
Growing	19	50%
Levelling out	1	3%
Shrinking	6	16%
Staying the same	12	32%

Question 6 Do you have plans to increase or decrease your workforce? If so, how many and over what time period?

Most said they had no plans to change the size of their workforce. Of those that said they planned to increase only two gave specific numbers, one mentioned 1 in the next year and the other said 2 by 2009.

Plans	No.	%
Decrease	1	3%
No or stay the same	25	66%
Increase	11	29%
Don't know	1	3%

Question 7 Have you experienced any problems recruiting staff?

About a quarter (24%) said they had experienced problems. One mentioned problems because they are specialists and another mentioned problems recruiting people for early morning work.

Question 8 If you have plans to grow your business will you need additional or larger premises?

Response	No.	%
No	26	68%
Possibly	2	5%
Yes	8	21%
Move out of town	1	3%
No reply	1	3%

Of those answering yes 4 mentioned additional premises and 2 mentioned larger premises.

Question 9 Have you received any advice on or assistance in developing your business? Where from?

The majority said that they had not received any advice.

Response	No.	%
Yes	7	18%
No	30	79%
Don't know	1	3%

Of those that had received advice the most cases (4 out of 7) it came from their company's head office. Other sources, each mentioned once were:

- friends,
- "Safe for Food",
- "Better Business",
- BNI,
- private business manager, and
- accountant.

Question 10 Do you think you would benefit from receiving business advice and support? In which areas?

Very few respondents felt they need advice or support.

Response	No.	%
Yes	4	11%
No	26	68%
Possibly	3	8%
Don't know	3	8%
No reply	2	5%

Only two specific topics for advice or support were mentioned, each once: "finance" and "promoting business".

Question 11 Are there any obstacles which prevent you from growing or maintaining your business?

Although many (18 out of 38) respondents said there were no obstacles, others reported a wide range of issues as follows:

Obstacle	No. of mentions
Competition (out of town shopping, supermarkets, Internet)	5
Difficult to cross road	1
ECT	1
Footfall (reducing)	4
Government lack of support	1
Lack of advertising	1
Lack of space	2
New rules and regulations e.g. on disposal of some used equipment	1
Not enough hours in the day	1
Overheads (VAT, PAYE, NI, council tax) etc.	2
Parking (specifically: convenience, keep charges low, monitoring of restricted parking and disabled parking)	6
Recruiting staff	1
Trouble with youths	1

Conclusion

The survey shows that the town centre business community is made up of a wide range of businesses, employing mostly small numbers of staff. Although there are some relatively new businesses, several have been established for decades, on average 16 years.

Confidence is high with half of all businesses reporting that they are growing, and a number planning to recruit new staff or obtain larger or additional premises. However, there may be scope to investigate further those that are shrinking. Some interesting figures emerge:

- 29% say they plan to recruit new staff,
- 24% have experienced difficulties recruiting staff in the past,
- 21% say they will be looking for larger or additional premises,
- only 18% have received business development advice or support, mostly from their own head office, and
- only 11% feel they need business development advice or support.

Respondents reported a number of different obstacles to developing their businesses. Most frequently mentioned were: competition from, for example, supermarkets, and parking problems.

Appendix C: Corporate grant schemes

Many national and international companies operate community grant schemes. Generally the project has to be within a minimum distance from the companies' premises and fit a strict set of criteria. Some examples which might be relevant to Stonehouse are shown in Appendix C.

Scheme	Value	Criteria	More information
B&Q Better Neighbour Grants	£50 to £500	Grants are available to help get a community project (within 20 miles of a store) up and running. The scheme provides B&Q materials, for example, pond liners, plants, peat-free compost for projects such as a pond/wildlife garden or paints labelled low or minimal VOC for redecoration projects.	www.diy.com
B&Q - The One Planet Living Awards	£1,000 to £10,000	Awards to help local communities create inclusive and sustainable facilities.	www.oneplanetliving.org
Barclays	Not specified	Supports a broad range of causes, from local schools to centres for older people, kids' sports facilities and local hospices. May not accept unsolicited requests.	www.personal.barclays.co.uk
HBOS Foundation: Community Action Programme	up to £10,000	To support a diverse range of projects - but must fit within the two key themes of: money advice and financial literacy or developing and improving local communities. Must be a registered charity. Staff also involved in volunteering.	
HSBC Global Education Trust	Not specified	Projects in and out of school which help educate children and young adults aged 3-25; Projects which help young people understand business and finance ; Projects which provide help for disadvantaged children ; Projects which promote international and/or cultural understanding ; Language programmes.	www.hsbccommittochange.com
'Bank an Hour' from Lloyds TSB Business Banking	Not specified	Business Banking staff giving their time to voluntary projects, for example: community environmental work, producing educational materials - e.g. newsletters, garden maintenance or landscaping, Interior and exterior decorating.	www.lloydstsb.com

Scheme	Value	Criteria	More information
Midcounties Co-operative Community Dividend	Up to £1,000	Funding is intended to support local organisations that provide a tangible and long-term benefit to people in their local community.	www.midcounties.coop
RBS Group	up to £1,000	Can provide funding, volunteers, support or prizes for a community or youth group, local organisation, school or charity through two employee schemes - 'double-matched' Give As You Earn and Community Cashback - that support employees' giving, be it their time, effort, skills or cash. Can be accessed through employees of any of the RBS group companies (e.g. NatWest, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Direct Line, Churchill, Ulster Bank, Coutts).	www.rbs.com
Siemens Caring Hands	Not specified	Local staff volunteering and many sites have charity committees so employees can make regular donations, matched by the company, to a community fund and decide to which good causes the money should be allocated.	www.siemens.co.uk
SKF	Not specified	No specific scheme but the global website says: "Every year, SKF units dedicated money, gifts or their voluntary hours to helping the communities worldwide. Donations and gifts are contributed either directly to the institutions such as schools, orphanages, old-age homes, hospitals etc or to various charitable organisations."	www.skf.com
The Schlumberger Foundation	Not specified	The Schlumberger Foundation provides financial support for: Science and technology education for underserved high school students and university teachers where Schlumberger people live and work. Local programs and projects including those where employees participate or lead projects on their own time.	www.slb.com

Scheme	Value	Criteria	More information
Zurich Cares	£100 - £10,000	Aims to work with people who face poverty, disadvantage, physical or mental distress, and help them achieve real improvement in the quality of their lives. Support can be given in three way - through monetary grants, volunteers or the donation of business skills. Organisations within a thirty-mile radius of Cheltenham are supported, and can be for core or revenue funding, project, capital or service.	www.zurich.co.uk

Appendix D: Charitable trusts

Scheme	Value	Criteria	More information
BBC Children in Need	Not specified - average less than £25,000	Gives grants to: Organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people who must be 18 years and under, living in the UK. Disadvantages include: Illness, distress, abuse or neglect Any kind of disability Behavioural or psychological difficulties Living in poverty or situations of deprivation	www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/
D G Albright Charitable Trust	Not specified	Makes grants to organisations for: general charitable purposes, medical/health/sickness, relief of poverty and religious activities for the benefit of: children/young people, elderly/old people.	Via www.cheltenham.gov.uk
Gordon Gray Trust	Not specified	The trust supports general charitable purposes but has a preference for organisation which support people with disabilities or special needs and environment or conservation issues.	Via www.cheltenham.gov.uk
Paul Hamlyn Foundation Open Grants Scheme	Not specified	Projects and activities that help people to realise their potential and have a better quality of life in three areas: Education and Learning, The Arts and Social Justice - This section aims to help integrate marginalised individuals and communities.	www.phf.org.uk/default.asp
Peter De Haan Charitable Trust	Not specified	Grants are awarded to organisations which aim to improve the quality of life for people and communities in the UK in the fields of Social Welfare, the Environment and the Arts.	www.pdhct.org.uk
Philip Smith's Charitable Trust	Not specified	The trust makes grants to Gloucestershire based organisations in the fields of welfare, older people and children.	Via www.cheltenham.gov.uk
Severn Sound's Money Mountain	£250 to £3,000	Grants to charities, community projects and non profit making organisations. is given to those groups who are helping a section of the community that suffers some form of disadvantage. Prefer self contained projects, for example- New equipment e.g. toys for a special needs playgroup, costs of training or set up costs of a project.	www.severnsound.co.uk

Scheme	Value	Criteria	More information
The Charles Irving Charitable Trust	£50-£5,000	Disability, mental health, older people in the community, local community projects, homelessness and victim support.	Via www.open4community.info
The Colonel W H Whitbread Charitable Trust	Not specified	At the trust's discretion with a preference for Gloucestershire.	Via www.cheltenham.gov.uk
The Langtree Trust	£50 to £1,000	Priority is given to church projects, youth groups, the disabled and the disadvantaged. Projects and equipment are preferred.	Via www.cheltenham.gov.uk
The Macfarlane Walker Trust	Not specified	The trust has particular interest in the provision of facilities for recreation and social welfare Gloucestershire	Via www.cheltenham.gov.uk
The Notgrove Trust	£200 to £20,000	The trust awards general grants but not to individuals	Via www.open4community.info
The Radcliffe Foundation	Not specified	The foundation shows a particular interest in health/disability, social welfare, children/youth, wildlife/conservation/environment and education causes.	Via www.cheltenham.gov.uk
The Rowlands Trust	Not specified	The trust makes grants for education and training to support charities providing for medical and scientific research, the sick, poor, handicapped, elderly, music, the arts and the environment.	Via www.cheltenham.gov.uk
The Scarman Trust	around £2,000	The Scarman Trust invests in can do-ers - people who act as a catalyst and mobilise community assets for positive and concrete change. Assets such as skills, knowledge, land, buildings, networks, organisational resources and spending power - that often go to waste.	www.thescarmantrust.org
The Summerfield Charitable Trust	Not specified	Grants to projects and organisations working in Gloucestershire in the fields of: The arts, museums and the built heritage; The environment and natural heritage; Community work; Education, sport and recreation; Vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors of society	www.summerfield.org.uk

Appendix E: Changes or comments after consultation

Amendments and corrections

Page	Before	After
9	Stanley Mill, built in 1813	Stanley Mill, (in King's Stanley parish) built in 1813
9	Hoffman engineering works built in Oldend Lane in 1946	Hoffman engineering works built in Oldend Lane in 1938
27 and 43	Green Stonehouse	Sustainable Stonehouse
31	Spring Clean: <i>Lead partner</i> SP	Spring Clean: <i>Lead partner</i> SDC

Comments

Page/Section	Commentator	Summary of Comments
9	Jane Roberts Clerk to King's Stanley Parish Council	References to Stanley Mill give the distinct impression that Stanley Mill is within Stonehouse Parish.
9	Gavin Owen Chair, King's Stanley Parish Council	Stanley Mill is in King's Stanley Parish and not Stonehouse Town.
25 Establish Partnership	Rachel Small Regeneration Manager, Stroud District Council	Partnership already shown to be strong and progressing well.. Grants of up to £2000 available to help bring forth Community Plan projects.
25 Business Networks	-"-	This Council supports the establishment of a Chamber, and if requested would attend
26 Cotswold Canals Renaissance	-"-	This Council is fully involved in the implementation of the project. Information has yet to be provided by the HLF to indicate if their funding is secure.
27 Sustainable Stonehouse	-"-	Council working with District Severn-Wye Energy to undertake assessments of businesses and some community housing stock in order to reduce energy use. Keen to involve Partnership in cycling strategy and Shop Local initiatives

Page/Section	Commentator	Summary of Comments
27 Historic Stonehouse	-"-	The initiative to establish a Historical Society is very sound. Council's Conservation Section can provide advice or sign-posting. Suggest a recording of Stonehouse oral history.
28 Community Communications	-"-	We support the establishment of a newsletter. May be opportunities to feed stories to the Council's own electronic newsletter "The News" to promote the activities and achievements of the Partnership.
29 Footpaths and Cycle Paths	-"-	Council would welcome input from the Partnership on the development of cycling opportunities
30 Shared Space	-"-	This Council will work with the Partnership to assist in the development of schemes. In this respect, should there be opportunities for District Council to submit joint funding bids on behalf of Stonehouse and other community partnerships to obtain capital funding for the implementation of public realm projects, guidance will be sought.
31 Social/ Community Centre	-"-	Council will assist with this initiative where possible.
31 Spring Clean	-"-	Control of graffiti is a role that is undertaken by the Stroud District Council. There is an established mechanism in place for the community to report this occurrence. Queries relating to this matter should be directed through the Community Safety portfolio or else the Neighbourhood Warden.
32 Events	-"-	Use the District Council web based events calendar to promote community events and activities; and/or the Tourism web site for those which are more likely to appeal to the tourism market. There are also opportunities for joint event advertising in the local press.
32 Market	-"-	Funding may be available for establishing a market. Should this likely to be required in 2008/09, then it is advised an application should be submitted now under the RCIS.
33 Flooding and Emergency Planning	-"-	District Council will assist in flood matters when required.
33 Sports	-"-	Regeneration through Sport Manager very complimentary of the proposed activities
34 Young Stonehouse	-"-	Council's Senior Youth Worker is supportive of the tasks identified in the Plan.
<i>Overall</i>	-"-	The actions and tasks identified lead or complement programmes or projects where the District Council is involved, with no contradiction or duplication. Congratulations on a well developed Plan. This Council looks forward to working with you in the future.