



## **Council Strategy Document**

The Council will work alone and with others to shape, enhance and protect facilities and services in Stonehouse, to improve the quality of life of residents and promote biodiversity, and, in line with our declaration of a climate emergency, to reduce the carbon emissions of the council to net zero by 2030 and enable and encourage the reduction of carbon emissions in the wider community.

### **1. Protecting and Enhancing Services and Facilities**

#### **a) Town Centre Retail and Services**

Town Centres everywhere are under threat from the increase in internet shopping. This trend has been exacerbated by limitations imposed due to the Covid crisis.

The Town Council is committed to supporting and promoting town centre businesses. The re-opening of the canal link to Saul junction presents the opportunity to promote Stonehouse as a canal town. To this end the Town Council supports the development of a Stonehouse Wharf and the improvement of signage and links between the canal and the town centre.

#### **b) Recreation Facilities**

Recreation facilities will be protected and enhanced, for example, through the rolling programme of improvements to play equipment. The Town Council will improve facilities at Oldends Lane in association with Magpies and Stonehouse Football Club.

#### **c) Transport Facilities**

The Town Council will protect and enhance walking and cycling links through the town and between the town and surrounding settlements.

The Town Council will continue to work towards the re-opening of Stroudwater (Stonehouse Bristol Road) station in association with Stroud District Council and Rail Futures, and will work to protect and enhance Burdett Road Station in association with the train operating company.

The Town Council will continue to provide and maintain bus shelters and will attempt to improve provision.

#### **d) Housing**

The Town Council will support a range of housing types and tenures to meet the needs of the population.

## **2. Improving Quality of Life**

### **a) Environment and Biodiversity**

The Town Council will protect and enhance green spaces and manage them for wildlife and people. We will protect and enhance biodiversity through management of Doverow Woods, the Newt Ponds and other important sites and by protecting and enhancing green corridors through the town.

We will develop a Community Arboretum, providing free access to a wide variety of tree species throughout the town for residents and visitors to enjoy.

### **b) Historic Environment**

We will protect the historic environment of Stonehouse.

### **c) Clubs and Societies**

We will support local clubs and societies through our grants budget and in other ways where possible.

### **d) Events**

We will continue to organise events such as Goodwill to bring people together and to promote the town. We will aim for a programme of events throughout the year.

### **e) Support for Local Residents**

We will work with other organisations including Support Stonehouse, All Pulling Together and Citizens Advice to provide support for residents.

## **3. Reducing Carbon Emissions**

In line with its Climate Emergency Declaration, the Council is committed to playing its part in reducing Global carbon emissions and will do this, by:

- Pro-actively reducing our CO2 emissions as an organisation to net zero by 2030
- Seeking to encourage and enable our community to decrease their emissions and improve their resilience to climate change
- Seeking to influence the policies of other organisations to encourage them to reduce their emissions.
- Acknowledging that 'business as usual' is not an option in the face of the climate emergency, and that society in its current form is unsustainable.
- Strategically reassessing and adjusting the scope of our current activities.

## **Priority Projects identified in the Neighbourhood Plan**

The Council will take account of the infrastructure improvement projects identified in the Neighbourhood Plan when considering priority infrastructure projects for funding from developers' contributions and from other sources.

## **Delivery of the Strategy**

1. The Council will follow its policies and procedures in the delivery of the Strategy
2. The Council will utilise its resources in terms of people and precept to deliver the strategy. It will ensure that it can adapt to change and challenges by:
  - Ensuring its staff are equipped, and trained to deliver services
  - Ensuring councillors are trained and informed
  - Ensuring that it is financially sustainable and performing well
  - Maintaining the general power of competence
  - Ensuring that its resources are not overstretched
  - Providing grants to local organisations.
3. The Council will act through Terms of Reference which will be reviewed at the Council's AGM as necessary:

## **Review of the Strategy**

The Council will evaluate annually prior to the AGM to ensure it is meeting its strategic objectives, as set out in the Action Plans,

**Adopted: 11 October 2021 (Minute TC 2691 )**

**Next Review: April 2022**

**ACTION PLAN - 2021-2024 -**

Project/Initiative	Committee	Actions/work required	Budget 2021/22	Target Date	Updated
New Community facilities at Oldends Lane comprising community hall, skittle alley & bar, housing and landscaping	B	Awaiting decision on resubmitted planning application.	Reserves Project Planning and Delivery	March 2022?	December 2020
Landscaping of Oldends Lane carpark	B	Awaiting decision on resubmitted planning application	Reserves Project Planning and Delivery	March 2022?	December 2020
Investigate ways for the Town Council to become a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030 and produce a strategy for achieving this.	B	Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum now active. Climate Action Plan being implemented by STC	Busn Committee £5,000 Env Committee £2000 + other external grants	2030	December 2020
Encourage and enable our community to decrease their emissions and improve their resilience to climate change	B	Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum now active. Climate Action Plan being implemented by STC	STC grants		December 2020
Research funding available for grant schemes from 2020-2021 onwards which will enable carbon-reduction activities in Stonehouse and provide guidance on grant criteria.	B	Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum now active. Successful application to CPRE Ash replacement fund			December 2020
Support Stonehouse working with Long Table, APT to support local community	B	Additional support for those in need during pandemic	Additional grants from TC		December 2020

Improving bus shelter provision	E	Review cleaning arrangements. Audit and arrange repairs	Street furniture/bus shelters: £3000 New replacement/major repairs reserve: £16,000		December 2020
Town Events: Maintaining and Expanding the range of events such Goodwill Fest, Walking festival, Climate, tree events	E	Summer events to support High Street reopening	Events <u>£5,000</u> Xmas lights £5,000		December 2020
Town Centre Regeneration	E	Environmental enhancements such as planter scheme, shop forecourt improvements	Town Centre Partnerships: £1,000 SDC Mkt Towns Initiative funding		December 2020
Improving signage between the Town Centre, station, Cotswold Way, canal and cycle route and signage to Stonehouse from along the canal.	E	Update finger posts in High Street Audit signs and identify gaps	Signage Grants ? SDC Market Towns Initiative funding?		December 2020
Additional loop of the Cotswold Way into Stonehouse	E	Investigate process to achieve this			
Canal Restoration and Ship Inn Site - working with ShIPS and Stroud District Council to provide amenity space on the canal side	E	Canal Rejuvenation Working Group working to ensure town benefits from extension of canal restoration to Saul.	New Projects post £10,000		December 2020
Develop Stonehouse as a canal town - Improve connectivity	E	Signage, sculpture trail			

between town and canal- via 1)Regent St. 2) path from A419 along side Berryfield		Improve path from A419 past Berryfield. Manage newt ponds, nature area, new fencing?			
Wharfdale Way, Boakes Drive & Newt Pondsites - working with SDC and Glouc Wildlife Trust to improve canalside environment	E	On line Wild Towns Maps planned. Reopen negotiations to take over Newt ponds and Wildlife area	Grant funded by GWT	March 2021	December 2020
Redesign Old Chapel Garden		Hard landscaping and tree planting complete. Sculptures and further planting ongoing	Grant funding	Summer 2021	
Updating Play Equipment Laburnum New Play Scheme Oldends Lane Meadow Road	E	Laburnum and Oldends (first stage) completed	CIL funding available: £2531 Grants needed Earmarked Reserves:£16,000?	Timetable to be agreed	December 2020
Stagholt Field	E	Additional play facilities & environmental enhancements? Community orchard?	?	?	?
Neighbourhood Plan Review	E	Initial meeting held Nov 2020	NP Review £4,000		December 2020
Reopening of Stroudwater (Stonehouse Bristol Road) Station	E	Promote new station proposal. New bid to DfT submitted Mar 2021; working group working with MP, SDC & other partners.	Earmarked reserves: £5,000		December 2020
Establish a Stonehouse arboretum - create info pamphlet, map for visitors	E	Continue tree planting around the town			

Improved cycle access to & from Ebley avoiding Horsetrough roundabout	E		Awaiting further improvements		
Improvements to National Cycle route 45	E		Still some danger spots following A419 alterations		
Improve pedestrian and cycle links to Great Oldbury and industrial estate	E		Developer contributions		
Improved disabled access at Burdett Road station	E				
Improved 'gateways' to Stonehouse	E		New signage, landscaping		
Improved recycling facilities eg segregated bins	E				
Provision of co-working and flexible working space	B		SDC Market town initiative -MTI £20k contribution agreed suggest look again at this as was only an idea in 2018, not sure it is a priority now,		

#### ASPIRATIONAL PROJECTS FROM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Project/initiative	Way forward
Increase variety of sports facilities in Stonehouse eg. tennis courts, all weather pitch, swimming pool	Monitor recreational provision for Great Oldbury and New Forest Green stadium.

## FUNDING RECEIVED WHERE EXPENDITURE NEEDS TO BE PLANNED:

Funding	Use	Amount
Community Infrastructure Levy	Parishes can spend on capital projects relating to local infrastructure so long as spend assists with meeting the demands that new development places on an area; for example, play areas, village hall, recreation ground, street furniture. CIL should be spent within 5 years of receipt.	£2529 106 to be spent by April 2023, rest to be spent by 2024 To be allocated to play equipment improvements.
SDC Market Towns Initiative	Projects with economic/social benefit	£43,325 £13,325 received March 2020 £30,000 received Dec 2020.  Some allocated to OEL pavilion development? Time limit to expenditure? Maybe could be adding Stonehouse to the signposts along the canal