



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: November 2021 (Minute TC 2691)

Next Review: April 2022