



Nether Stowey Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Event Report

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1. Introduction

As part of the development of the Nether Stowey Neighbourhood Plan, a public consultation event was held to allow village residents the opportunity to review the work completed to-date and to review and comment on the draft Policies and Objectives.

2. Background

The development of the Neighbourhood Plan is led by the Parish Council but produced by a team of volunteers from the village in consultation with villagers, local business and other interested groups. The Plan enables the village to influence the nature of the inevitable changes that will take place over the next 20 years. It will ensure that local people have a say about new development proposed in the parish, whether it is new houses, new buildings for local businesses, or changes to the local road network.

To gather the thoughts, comments and input from residents, a questionnaire was developed which sought to obtain views on items such as:

- where new houses should go and what they should look like
- what infrastructure should be paid for by new development, such as footpaths, play areas, community and health facilities, improvements to roads and junctions
- safeguarding green spaces (the playing field, the Millennium Wood, the allotments)
- protection to existing community facilities
- supporting local businesses, for example by allocating suitable premises

A copy of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire was delivered to every household in the village in June 2016

In addition, meetings and consultations have been held with local business, the school and other interested local groups.

The questionnaire responses together with all other collected information has been used as input to the production of a number of 'topic paper' as well as draft Objectives and Policies for inclusion in the Neighbourhood plan.

The next step was to share this with the village and to seek input and comment on the Topic Papers and the Policies and Objectives, particularly:

- the things we want to preserve
- the things we want to protect
- the things we want to influence in our village.

To support this, the Consultation Event was arranged to allow village residents the opportunity to read, comment and input on all the above points.

3. Publicity

A number of steps were taken to advertise the Consultation Event including:

- Production of a leaflet which was delivered to every house-hold in the village
- Placing a copy of the leaflet on the village notice boards
- An article in the village magazine, the Quantock Messenger
- A copy of the leaflet placed on the Parish Council web site
- A larger copy of the leaflet placed in the village library
- Copies of the leaflet made available in the Parish Council office

A copy of the leaflet is included in Appendix A

4. Event

It was decided to hold the Consultation Event in the village library as it provided a central location as well as being one of the items being proposed as a 'village asset' in the Neighbourhood Plan.

In addition it was agreed to hold the Consultation Event over a number of days to provide village residents with selection of dates and times to visit and participate in recognition of village who had to work, care for children, etc.

The dates and times were:

- 13th April 10am – 12pm
- 13th April 3pm to 5pm
- 14th April 10am – 12pm



The Consultation Event in action

The number of participants for each event was:

Date / Time	Number of Participant
13th April 10am – 12pm	
13th April 3pm to 5pm	
14th April 10am – 12pm	

To encourage village residents to provide comments on the Topic Papers and the draft Policies and Objectives, 'Post It' notes were made widely available by each display board and residents encouraged to use them and post them on the applicable board. This had the unexpected benefit that a number of 'dialogs' were started which proved very useful and informative.

In addition, for residents who only wished to show their agreement / disagreement, the use of 'smiley' stickers was encouraged with up-side-down smileys use to show disagreement

Examples of both the use of Post It notes and Smileys can be seen in Appendix B

5. Feedback and Comments

HOUSING

Smileys

Starter homes need adequate garden space.

Housing design should be in sympathy with original Georgian village & have adequate parking.

Sustainable housing, use skilled local people & avoid plastic, also use solar panels.

Fewer Holiday homes might allow more local people (young) to purchase a first/family home.

Three "yes's" to local connections for housing needs

5

Draft objectives & Policy's housing

4

The Village needs time to absorb and adapt, just say no to new developments

All these problems are caused by increasing population, Nether Stowey is full and has been for a long time. So, no more granting of Planning permission for applications for increased housing.

Rates

Houses in the town areas with a "D" banding have the advantage of all the amenities (Library, Museum, Bus Service, road surfaces regularly repaired, Shops, Banks) so why is it that I pay the same rates? And not have the same amenities.

PARKING

Smileys

Give village back parking spaces outside library

Make car park on land by A39, with path through to village.

Parking is not enforced on cross

New Lime St pavement is causing problems with parking, now trying to park in Coleridge road which is causing problems for people who live there.

More parking for Walkers/tourists

Fly parking HPC

Parking on Banneson Road

Make village a new car park

Parking is a problem as there is enforcement of existing parking regulations e.g. it is illegal to park within 10 meters of a road junction. Parking on the Cross is not enforced.

More off-street parking

Whose house can we knock down for Parking?

Existing Village Hall access to car park is too hilly and car park is inadequate.

Car parking for Cemetery.

HPC issue - Church Centre car park is private! Make them go to the designated park & ride at Quantock Lakes.

We do need to provide some parking for the village and I wonder if using the waste land behind Lime Street might be an option with access from the Village Hall.

COMMUNITY

Smileys

Could we have a couple of hours of Police or CPO on a Saturday morning, this could be held at the Library.

Keep the Library and Sara-Jane.

Move the Parish Council to the Library.

Better village signs.

Private facilities in Library to meet clients for those who trade with internet.

Library building must be preserved, tourist info could be here plus the Parish Office. If art work is involved grants may be available.

Knock down "Books for Life"

Look into funding sources to secure the Library Building and its present and very important contribution of community and social service within this village and surrounding area

Build a new School with parking

Convert the School into retirement home

Would love to see a care home in the village, there are many elderly who have to go out of the area away from friends & family. We need to consider this for the future

Community Infrastructure Levy, save this to purchase & run the library building & library car park

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

Smileys

Electricians, chemist needed

Provision of small business units for new small start ups on the edge of the village, could help our community to think into the future.

Tourism seems to be an increasing part of the business in Nether Stowey, this is because of the proximity of the Quantock Hills & Steart Marshes nature reserve, makes Nether Stowey an attractive place to stay.

Additional facilities for Tourism and employment would give additional support for shops and other facilities

Library building should be used to provide employment and tourism facilities

Nether Stowey needs to promote itself as more of a destination for tourism, the Parish Council could work harder with the Tourist Board & National Trust to put Nether Stowey on the map.

TRANSPORTATION

Smileys

One-way traffic system through the village would be beneficial to everyone.

Lime Street should be reviewed for one-way down from Ancient Mariner.

A39- How can you traffic to slow down? Speed cameras

New Developments- need more parking

Cycle lane

One-way system down Lime Street & also Mill Lane to ease traffic for the School & also make the new footpath worthwhile as cars won't need to drive on it

Regular bus service for Nether Stowey is essential, HPC Bus will not run forever.

Build a proper bridge across the A39 and a decent path up to the new farm shop.

Disagree with bridge across the A39 spoil the aspect of village, traffic lights maybe?

Current traffic lights/control across the A39 takes too long for green man to come on.

We need restoration of a bus service to Taunton or even Bridgwater

Why can't we have a one-way system through the village. Now Lime Street is no longer an adequate width for passing cars, maybe use temporary traffic lights to trial first so won't cost so much.

If(when?) the cheese factory site is developed. A roundabout would be best function option it would slow traffic on this dangerous stretch but keep the flow running and allow a smooth entry into the village.

The Slip rd. from the A39 should be kept.

Do not block off the slip road, from the A39

Slow down the traffic on the A39 near turning off

Confusing sign from N/E on A39 turning into Village

6. Next Steps

All comments, feedback and the number of Smileys (both agreement and disagreement) have been collated and counted and are being used to revise and support the Policies and Objectives and will be represented in the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan

7. Appendix A – Advertising Leaflet

OUR NETHER STOWEY
Neighbourhood Plan
Consultations



**Come to the Library, and help create
our village Neighbourhood Plan**

Friday 13th April, 10am-12.00
Friday 13th April, 3pm-6.30pm
Saturday 14th April, 10am-12.00

Nether Stowey's future **It's up to us! Our opinions matter**

A questionnaire was circulated to every household in the village in June 2016. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has now collated all your responses, and has used this information, together with information gathered from consultations with other groups in the village, to produce a number of Topic Papers on the key issues facing the village.

The next step is to share these Topic Papers with the village and to seek your thoughts on the Neighbourhood Plan's Aims and Objectives: the things we want to preserve, the things we want to protect, and the issues over which we wish to have an influence. In order to do this we will be holding three consultation sessions at the Library at which all the information and the draft Aims and Objectives will be available for you to see and comment on.

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come to one of these consultations. We very much welcome your input.

If you are not able to attend any of the consultations, copies of all the documents can be found on the Nether Stowey Parish website and at the Parish Office. All the information and the displays from the consultations will be in the Parish Office for the following week, offering you a further opportunity to comment.

We look forward to seeing you. Nether Stowey is our village: let's all have a say in its future.



8. Appendix B – Feedback and Comment



9. Appendix C – Other Feedback

Statement	No. of Smileys	Other Comments
<p>Community Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Church and Church Centre • Coleridge Cottage • Fire Station • Library • Medical Centre • Millennium and Stowey Woods • Post Office • Public Houses • Public Toilets • Recreation Ground • Retail Stores • School / Children’s Centre • The Mount • Village Hall • The built environment of St Mary Street, Castle Street and Lime Street 	<p>4 5 3 5 12 7 3 10 2 4 6 1 5</p>	
<p>Objective - To positively influence the design of new housing built in the parish to encourage energy efficiency, adequate parking and appropriate garden size to ensure suitable housing density</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>“A big Yes” – 4 “I agree” - 4</p>

Statement	No. of Smileys	Other Comments
<p>Objective - To reuse brownfield sites and where possible to renovate disused agricultural buildings</p> <p>Policy - Planning applications for conversions of suitable farm and other buildings within the rural areas of the Parish will be favourably considered for residential use providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals are consistent with protecting the character and landscape quality of the area. • The design approach is appropriate and sympathetic to the building, the locality and immediate surroundings. <p>The building is capable of conversion, rather than complete or substantial rebuild.</p>		
<p>Objective - To conserve the rural character and qualities of the landscapes of the parish and of the identity of the village</p>	7	