

Parish Plan - June 2005

Introduction **Pages 2 - 4**

Survey Results **Pages 4 - 12**

The results of the survey carried out in February 2005 of all properties in the civil Parish.

Photograph Competition (not part of this www summary)

The photographs on the following pages were some of the entries in the Parish Photographic Competition.

Stoke St Mary Map (not part of this www summary)

Showing the boundary of the civil Parish reproduced by kind permission of HMSO

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Action Plan (see separate online pdf file)

This action plan will be received by the Parish Council and discussed extensively at their meeting on 12th September 2005

Introduction

What is a Parish Plan and why do we need one?

We are fortunate to live in the Parish of Stoke St. Mary because every day we can enjoy its inherent beauty and tranquillity with its wonderful sunsets, rolling landscapes and mix of architectural styles. We possess a rural heritage of which we are justly proud and many of us would like to see little or no change in the future. However changes occur whether we like them or not and the main objective of this Parish Plan is to ensure that we all have an influence on these changes during the next 15 years, hence the title - *Stoke St Mary a 2020 Vision*.

Parish plans are part of a Government initiative to help breathe new life into rural communities like ours and to allow local people to develop their own neighbourhoods the way they want. The Plan is there for you, as a resident, to shape the future of the Parish by making your views known on a wide range of local issues. It gives you the opportunity to help create a healthy, sustainable and vibrant community for all those that live, work and regularly use the Parish.

Stoke St Mary - a 2020 Vision, is a profile of where we live, a detailed analysis of your views and needs for the future and an action plan to turn what we want into what we get. It is an influential document that will help inform and advise local councils and Government agencies about the issues that matter to us and about the way we want the Parish to develop in the future. It will also give us a better opportunity of attracting grants for some of the improvements we want to make so that Stoke St. Mary will be able to retain its heritage and provide somewhere for our descendents to enjoy in the same way as we have.

Who has been involved and what has been done?

This Plan was commissioned by the Parish Council whose support was instrumental in obtaining grant aid from the Countryside Agency (now administered by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). The grant helped to fund the publication of this and other documents together with the events that have been held in the Village Hall. The grant was supplemented by sponsorship from the Parish Council, the Millennium Committee and Taunton Deane Borough Council without whose support this work would not have been so comprehensive in nature or the events so generous in their hospitality.

The preparation, compilation and publication of this Plan has been made possible only through the contributions of the Organising Committee, the representatives of the stakeholder groups and those that gave their time to distribute and collect the questionnaires. Particular thanks are due to Sue Kilbey, David Fothergill, Jim Olney and Mike Baddeley who have been extremely generous with their time and support.

The process started with a "Stakeholders" meeting in Stoke Chapel on 29th September 2004 where 18 representatives of various groups who operate within the Parish were asked to identify the themes they thought should be included in the Questionnaire.

This was followed by the first main event held in the Village Hall on 26th October last year. Councillor John Williams, Leader of Taunton Deane Borough Council, gave the keynote speech to a packed Village Hall on the importance of the parish planning process to the future of this community. This was followed by activities lead by the Organising Committee where everyone had the opportunity to say what they liked and disliked about the Parish and highlight the importance of several key topics. I recall an entertaining presentation from David Fothergill about the future if we chose to do nothing about influencing it and I am sure that helped to increase the response rate to the questionnaire!

In February, a comprehensive Questionnaire was distributed to all households and I am delighted to say that almost 80% were returned. Over the months that followed the laborious task of analysing the responses was undertaken and the output can be seen in the first part of this document.

What next?

Your many thoughts and views expressed both in the Questionnaire and throughout the process have been distilled into an Action Plan that forms the second part of this document.

As you will see, the Action Plan highlights the issues you regard as being of importance, describes a vision of what you would like to achieve in the future, shows the necessary actions to be undertaken and recommends the organisation that should be asked to take the lead. Many of these actions, as you would expect, fall upon the Parish Council and as such they will be asked to formally accept this Parish Plan including its recommendations and actions as well as identifying suitable people to take the lead on implementing the action and reporting progress at their regular meeting.

This Plan is being distributed to all households in the Parish and will also be sent to the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Taunton Deane Borough Council, Somerset County Council and the Avon and Somerset Constabulary. I trust that each one of these organisations will use this document in their future planning exercises and respond favourably, in the foreseeable future, to the matters and concerns raised.

This Plan will also be used to demonstrate to other organisation and interested parties who may be able to assist in the achievement of our actions, that this Parish has undertaken full and widespread consultation on issues of importance to the community.

And finally.....

Thanks to your contribution, Stoke St. Mary continues to be a community that shows it can retain its unique heritage whilst at the same time maintaining its ability to adapt in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Best wishes,

Vic Freir
Chair
Parish Plan Organising Committee

Survey Results

Q1 Total number of Residents responding = 315 = 77%

Q2 How many, if any, in your household are Housebound, Infirm or Disabled?

Response = 2 Housebound;
6 Infirm;
16 Disabled

Q3 How many vehicles are owned by members of your household?

Response = 237 Cars; 16 Motorcycles; 15 Tractors;
15 Caravans; 7 Heavy Goods Vehicles.

Q4 How many animals / pets does the household own?

Response = 61 Dogs; 12 Horses; 86 Other.

Q5 Is the property Rented, Owner occupied or provided as part of employment?

Response = 16% Rented; 82% Owned; 2% Provided.

Q6 What is your main form of heating?

Response = 16% Electricity 15% LPG
52% Oil 5% Wood
5% Solid Fuel 7% Gas

Q7 Which sewage disposal system does your household have?

Response = 65% Mains 32% Septic
1.5% Cess 1.5% Plant

Q8 Do you have "off street" parking for all your vehicles?

Response = 87% = Yes

Q9 Do you have in your house, Internet Connection, Broadband?

Response = Internet = 63
Broadband = 26

Q10 Is your household part of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

Response = 46% Yes

Q11 How many years have you been resident in SSM Parish?

Response = 5% Under 1 year; 24% 1-5 years
35% 6-15 years; 16% 16-25 years; 14% 26-30 years;
2% 51 + years 4% Life

Q12 What age group do you fall in as at 1st February 2005?

Response = 1% Under 5 years; 4% 5-10 years
6% 11-15 years; 3% 16-18 years 7% 19-24 years 14% 25-
44 years 30% 45-60 years 17% 61-70 years
8% 71-80 years 7% 80 + years

Q13 What sex are you?

Response = 50% Male 50% Female

Q14 Are you currently:

Response = 1% Below School 14% FT Education
18% FT Employment 14% PT Employment
1% Unemployment 7% Self Employed +
8% Self Employed 0% Gov't Training 4% Unwaged
32% Retired 1% Other

Q15 If employed how far do you travel to your place of work?

Response = 68% Up to 5 miles 18% Up to 20 miles
11% Up to 50 miles 3% Over 50 miles

Q16 How often do you work from home?

Response = 13% Seldom 20% Often, 67% Never

Q17 If you go to school how do you usually travel there?

Response = 12% Public 74% Car 3% Cycle 11% Walk

Q18 If you commute to work how do you usually travel there?

Response = 2% Public 94% Car 2% Cycle 1% Walk 1% Taxi

Q19 Do you attend St. Mary's Church or Stoke Chapel?

Response = 7% Weekly 12% Monthly 15% 3 or 4 29% Hardly
37% Never

Q20 Do you worship outside the Parish?

Response = 3% Weekly 5% Monthly 6% 3 or 4 29% Hardly
57% Never

Q21 If you run a business within the Parish how many people do you employ?

Response = 4 People Employed-in
45 People Employed-out

Q22 Select UP TO THREE of the following which you would like to see improve the Parish environment.

Response = Trees 16% Flowers 13%
Woodlands 10% Footpaths 25%
Habitats 16% Pond 12%
Other 4% None 4%

Q23 How often do you use the Village Hall?

Response = 3% Weekly 5% Monthly 24% 3 or 4 44% Hardly
24% Never

Q24 Select ONE of the following options which you would like to see apply to the Village Hall?

Response = 44% Nothing 40% Refurbish
15% Rebuild 1% Demolish

Q25 Select UP TO THREE of the following which you would like to see to improve the Parish leisure facilities?

Response = 32% Field 18% Tennis
9% Badminton 7% BMX 8% Skate 13% Skittle
10% Bowls 3% Other

Q32 Which Medical Centre are you registered with?

Response = 120 Holway 74 Lisieux Way
8 Creech SM 75 Other TN
8 Other – Som 6 Other – out
3 Not reg

Q33 – Q42 How would you rate (from 1-5) the services within the Parish?

Response = Bus 1.5 Childrens Bus 2
Refuse 3.5 Recycle 3.2
Library 3.1 Policing 1.6
Parish 2.9 District 2.4
County 2.1 Doctor 3.1

Q43 Are you concerned about the development of the A358?

Response = 63% Yes

Q44 Would you like to see a CCTV camera network for crime prevention in the parish?

Response = 22% Yes

Q45 Would you be prepared to volunteer to help with community projects within the Parish?

Response = 38% Yes

Q46 Would you be prepared to help with a good neighbourhood scheme e.g. shopping, transport?

Response = 37% Yes

Q47&48 Would you like to see a Parish newsletter not related to the church? If so would you be prepared to contribute?

Response = 38% would like to see a newsletter.
16% would contribute.

Q49&50 Do you use the mobile shop delivery service?
Would you use an extended mobile shop service?

Response = 7% use the Mobile Shop.
17% would use an Extended Shop.

Q51 Would you like to see additional street lighting in the Parish?

Response = 24% Yes

Q52&53 Would you like to have computer training made available?
Would you like to see a computer users group in the Parish?

Response = 22% Computer training
22% Computer User Group

Q54 Would you like to see a community compost facility?

Response = 42% Yes

Q55 Would you like to see the telephone and electricity cables places underground rather than on telegraph poles?

Response = 63% Yes

Q56&57 Are you concerned about road flooding in the Parish?
Are you concerned about flash flooding in the Parish?

Response = 48% Flooding 48% Flash flooding

Q58 Do you think there is a problem with Dog fouling in the village?

Response = 21% Yes

Q59 Do you use Somerset County Council's mobile library?

Response = 10% Yes

Q60-62 Do you regularly walk in the Parish?
Do you use the footpaths and bridleways regularly?
Do you regularly cycle in the Parish?

Response = 63% Walk / 52% Use footpaths / 20% Cycle

Q63&64 Would you support a foot / cycle path between the village and Taunton?
Would you support a foot / cycle path between the village and Thurlbear?

Response = 55% Taunton
50% Thurlbear

Q65 Do you see the expansion of Taunton as a threat?

Response = 64% Yes

Q66 Should the Parish Council minutes be made more available?

Response = 57% Yes

Q67 Do you attend the Parish Council meetings?

Response = 11% Yes

Q67a If not, why not?

Response = 15% Too busy 4% Inconvenient
17% No interest 8% No consequences
43% Date unknown 13% Other

Q68 Do you need alternative accommodation within the next ten years in the Parish?

Response = 10% Yes

Q68a If yes, what type?

Response = 13 would need Sheltered
16 would need Starter-buy
6 would need Starter-rent
11 would need Home-buy
4 would need Home-rent

Q69 Select ONE of the following particular aspects of any new development in the Parish which is most important to you?

Response = Materials 55 persons / Styles 130 persons
Height to rooflines 40 persons
Variation 20 persons

Q70 Would you prefer to see:

- (a) Larger developments
- (b) Small clusters
- (c) Minimal development

Response = Large development 0%
Small clusters 23%
Minimal 77%

Q71 Where would you prefer to see any new development?

Response = Village 64%
Extend Village 17%
Areas away 14%
Fields 3%
Other 2%

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