

December 2003

Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan

Working Document

**December 2003
January 2008 update**

Planning for our own future...

What is the Action Plan about?

What is the Action Plan about?

The Action Plan is a document that will help to guide the future development of the local area. Importantly, it is an opportunity to address problems and plan for a better future. It provides local people with a chance to influence what happens in their own area, and follows the Government's advice on "empowerment" of local people. The Action Plan is a strategy that seeks to achieve the regeneration of the local area. It sets out all the improvements that are needed to lead to a better quality of life for local people. It looks at:

- How the local economy should develop
- What type of community facilities would be required in the future
- What new infrastructure and buildings are needed
- How the natural environment should be managed
- How facilities for education, skills and learning can be improved

Why do we need an Action Plan?

There are lots of issues that need to be addressed if the local area is to continue to thrive. Doing nothing is not an option. We need to deal with important issues that have arisen because of:

1. Changing economic and social life – particularly following the closure of the livestock market and the creamery
2. Changing consumer demands and economic pressures – the role of the countryside and its interaction with urban areas is changing
3. More new housing – lots more housing is planned for the future, and this will put pressure on local services and facilities
4. The recognition that we cannot work alone and thus there is an increasing need to cement existing partnerships and to forge new partnerships to secure funds, staff, land and other resources to make things happen. Existing partners include North Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council, South West Regional Development Agency, Government Office for the South West, Business Link, LearnDirect, Learning and Skills Council, Sturminster Newton Town Council, the Parish Councils, Dorset Community Action

What does the Action Plan do?

The Action Plan will help us, as a community, to plan for a better future. It identifies what we need to do to address existing problems and what we will need to do to make Sturminster Newton and the surrounding area a better place in the future. It will, therefore, help to make sure that our town, and its surrounding area, develops in the way that we want it to.

We can use the Action Plan to influence other people to do the things we want them to do and, importantly, we can use it ourselves to show people in the local community what they can do to help. The Town Council, District Council and County Council, and many other organisations are all partners in our future. However, the successful delivery of the Action Plan depends on the involvement of local people. We cannot sit back and wait for others to help us – we must both help ourselves and get others to help us! There are no easy solutions, but the Action Plan is an important step forward. However, it is the start, not the end, of the process and there is lots more work to be done.

Purpose of this document..

This document provides those people who are interested in getting involved, or whose job it is to do so, with the key information that they need. It describes:

- Our vision for the future of our community
- The key areas that we need to address and our main aims and objectives
- What we need to do to achieve these aims and who can help
- How we, as a community, can help ourselves

A shorter summary document is also available which provides an overview of the Action Plan. A much more detailed strategy document is also available – it provides lots of information about what we need to do and why we need to do it.

A vision for the future of Sturminster Newton?

The Action Plan is guided by a vision of what local people would like Sturminster Newton and the surrounding area to be like in the future. The vision serves a number of functions. In particular, it provides a basis for common understanding, agreement, motivation and action.

The box below provides details of our vision for the future of our local area.

A community that plans for its own future, rather than being planned for by others

This means:

- Taking a strategic approach– looking to the longer term and working within realistic timescales
- Encouraging the community to work together to tackle issues that affect them
- Encouraging everyone to get involved
- Ensuring that local people are aware of the difference they can make
- Being motivated and proactive – with the community taking responsibility for, and driving forward, implementation
- Promoting and maintaining an active dialogue with key stakeholders and agencies
- The community working in partnership with other organisations to mutual benefit

Aspirations...

The strategy is also guided by aspirations for the future as set out in the box below.

Aspirations for the future

- Allow Sturminster Newton to grow whilst retaining the market town 'feel'
- Keeping the balance between town and country
- Bringing the local area into the 21st century, whilst recognising and retaining the best elements of the past
- A vibrant local economy driving a high quality of life
- An area where people want to live, work and spend leisure time

The Five 'E's...

The Action Plan identified five key areas for action. It therefore has five parts – the five 'E's. Each 'E' has an associated set of actions, objectives and aims which set out what the Action Plan seeks to achieve and how this can be done. The 5 'E's are:

1. Economy
2. Education, skills and learning
3. Ease of movement
4. Environment
5. Enhanced leisure, recreation and community facilities

Timescales...

It is important to recognise that there are no easy solutions and it will take some time to deliver improvements. The Action Plan therefore takes a long-term, strategic approach to local issues and identifies things that can be done over the next 25 years. That may sound like a long time but it is only a generation. Working within this time frame will mean that we can help to make sure the Sturminster Newton area is a better place when our children are grown up.

An important part of the Action Plan is identifying which things can be done now and which may take longer. Ultimately the Action Plan will identify improvements that can be achieved in the:

- Short term 2004 - 2006
- Medium term 2007 - 2017
- Longer term 2018 - 2025

Economy

Vision, aims and objectives

The Action Plan aims to allow the local economy to grow so that it can provide a greater range of jobs and better income levels. The local market will expand because of the commitment for 800 further houses, and greater flexibility of enterprise is provided by the recent arrival of broadband in the area. The box below provides details of the vision, aims and objectives for an enterprising economy.

Vision, aims and objectives for an enterprising economy	
Vision	A successful local economy based on small to medium sized enterprises providing a diverse range of local employment opportunities
Strategic Aims	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Facilitate the growth and expansion of existing local businesses2) Attract other businesses to relocate/start up in Sturminster Newton3) Provide appropriate local employment opportunities
Strategic Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To develop the following sectors:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Food and drinkb. Local building / construction craftsc. Mediad. Environmental industriese. High technology research and development

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Grow and expand existing local businesses through continuing business support and provision of workspace and encourage suitable new businesses to locate in the area, particularly by promoting business clusters	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	NDDC Business Link Wessex SWRDA		Business units at Rolls Mill Business Park	Potential starter units in Community Centre. Better surgery facilities for business support organisations, e.g. Business Link. Business Clubs. Consider support for town retail sector?	5 New starter units in the Exchange available w.e.f. Sept 2007, and now all occupied Local Products Development Worker supporting Chamber in promotion of the town
Promote a food and drink based cluster	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	NDDC; SturQuest; Food/drink related businesses; Business Link Wessex	SWRDA NDDC	Workspace units at Rolls Mill suitable for food businesses. NDDC has promoted for food use. Local food distribution co-operative being developed by Olives et al	Consider starting a Local Food Forum in Spring 2005 once local food distribution project started	Local Food cluster not achieved. Idea of Food Mill on Rolls Mill may progress this
Promote rapid occupation of non-supermarket retail units at the livestock market site	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Charles Higgins Partnership				Supermarket opened February 2007 Other units being let

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Promote tourism, particularly low impact, sustainable tourism	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	NDDC; Countryside Centre; SturQuest; tourism			Links with Trailway Project Research other examples. Need to consider tourism accommodation, camping facilities etc.	Little progress to date. Cittaslow idea, with Local Products Development project, may develop this further. Development of Trailway also contributes to this
Expand the local building crafts sector	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	NDDC, building businesses, Dorset Centre for Rural Crafts. Business Link Wessex, Construction Industry Training Board				No progress
Explore the opportunities for renewable energy development and reclamation of materials	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Long	SturQuest; NDDC		Feasibility study done on renewable energy from river. Initial discussions on Biomass		Your Choice developing recycling and other initiatives. Renewable energy part of The Exchange.

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Encourage home working and expand e-commerce in industry, business and retail	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	NDDC; Sturminster Newton Community Learning Centre; Business Link Wessex			Support provision of Broadband to villages. Promote e-commerce training. Training needs to be identified through Community Learning Plan. Idea of home workers club/Business Club	No progress

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Provide for and encourage the expansion of media and communications industries	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	NDDC; Media businesses; Wessex Media Cluster; Business Link Wessex				No progress
Create small scale units to be used as workshops/offices	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan Hinton St Mary Parish Plan	Medium	Sturminster Newton Community Building Trust	SWRDA NDDC/Liveability	Facilities designed, planning permission obtained.	Other potential sites also to be considered, e.g. Cheese Factory site	5 starter units in Exchange completed. Workshop units being considered in Creamery site
Promote the retail role of the town by developing the market activities and facilities	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Sturminster Newton Town Council; Sturminster Newton Community Building Trust; Chamber of Commerce; SWDRA		Covered market area incorporated into Community Centre	Also need to retain and develop retail mix of town. Development of a niche identity, e.g. food. Consider potential for Town Centre Management. Consider support for retail sector.	Town Centre Enhancement provides better space for markets. The Exchange, incorporates a covered market area, and runs 2 markets a week, Country Markets on Mondays and Saturday Traders on Saturdays.
Consider importance of care sector.							Training needs identified in Local Learning Plan. No further progress made

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Encourage housing developers to provide more affordable housing units within new developments	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan Housing issue also raised in: Marnhull Parish Plan Hinton St Mary Parish Plan Glanvilles Wootton Parish Plan	Short	NDDC; Sturminster Newton Town Council			This is a major issue across the area, and rural Dorset as a whole, and is being considered by the Dorset Strategic Partnership.	No progress
Provide improved careers and employment advice for all	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Job Centre; Connexions & Next Step			Consider how Job Centre Plus can provide more local service.	No progress
Provide improved/ more extensive child care facilities for pre-school children so that parents have the opportunity to work	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan Child Okeford Parish Plan Marnhull Parish Plan	Short	Early Years Partnership; DCC; Not for Profit and private childcare providers			Provide support for Child Okeford Pre-School Project and other childcare projects	Children's Centre project up and running. Child Okeford childcare facility funded, built, and in use.
Develop Credit Union for North Dorset	SturQuest Representatives Group Sept 03; launch Feb '04	Medium	Other partnerships, First Dorset Credit Union; NDDC; Signpost	Start-up funding Operating funding.	Steering Group started from launch meeting in Feb '04	Need to become part of First Dorset Credit Union. Need part time manager post once operational.	North Dorset branch of First Dorset Credit Union open and covering this area. Service point operating in Gillingham, and will operate in Sturminster as CU grows and as

							local volunteers are available.
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Education, Skills and Learning

Vision, aims and objectives

The Action Plan aims to ensure that people of all ages have access to appropriate learning and training opportunities. This will help to improve the range of skills and knowledge that we have in the local area and support the local economy. In turn this will help to improve our quality of life. The box below provides details of the vision, aims and objectives that relate to education, skills and learning.

Vision, aims and objectives for achieving excellence in learning, skills and education	
Vision	A capable and adaptable workforce to meet the demands of the local economy thus helping individuals, families and the community to benefit from an improving local economy and improved quality of life
Strategic Aims	Develop skills and knowledge base by providing access to learning at all levels
Strategic Objectives	To develop a community learning plan to meet the needs of local people

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Build on existing adult learning opportunities available/possible at School, LearnDirect, Dorset Centre for Rural Studies and Community Learning Centre	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Adult Education, Sturminster Newton Community Learning Centre, Dorset Centre for Rural Skills, other learning providers, e.g. local colleges		Use of Unity.com to promote learning opportunities. Use of Community Learning Centre and Community Office to promote opportunities and signpost (ongoing)		Community Learning Centre developing wider range of training, with Kingston Maurward College, e.g. ICT courses on Spreadsheets, DTP, etc. Adult Education centre in Sturminster.
Develop a Community Learning Plan, including an audit to identify existing and potential skill/ knowledge gaps	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Sturminster Newton Community Learning Centre; Adult Education; NDDC	SWRDA DCC NDDC LSC	Brief for audit being worked up (November '04)	Defining scope of audit to cover work related skills, basic skills and "leisure and pleasure" learning. Liaise with library re LearnDirect.	Local Learning Plan completed in summer 2006. Many initiatives being implemented

Implement Learning Plan for accredited and non-accredited learning as a way of filling the gaps between the training that is currently available and what people want	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium				Await results of audit and Community Learning Plan before deciding how to implement.	Volunteer Community Tutor project 'Pass on your Passion' piloted through the Community Learning Centre, and continuing.
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Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Develop a town centre site for a Community Learning Centre	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Sturminster Newton Community Learning Centre, Sturminster Newton Community Building Trust.	Funding sought as part of Community Centre project.	Community Learning Centre incorporated into Community Centre Project. Potential for Community Learning Centre to use Nordcat training premises in meantime. Adult Education seeking temporary premises at High School		Community Learning Centre moved in to The Exchange in August 2007
Increase capacity for infant/ junior education, either through the expansion of William Barnes School or the construction of a new/additional school on a separate site	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Dorset County Council.		Feasibility study being revisited. March '05.	Provide support for William Barnes School. Provision of better parking / drop-off facilities in short term. Combine with pre-school / out of school facilities.	William Barnes Primary School is undertaking an improvements programme, but still constrained by the site. Option of Primary School relocating to Creamery site considered as part of Development Brief work on Creamery site, but not considered viable by the school/DCC.

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Provide improved careers and employment advice for all	Provide improved careers advice for all	Short	Job Centre; SturQuest			Discuss provision of advice services with Job Centre. Link with Community Learning Plan.	No progress

Ease of movement

Vision, aims and objectives

The Action Plan aims to reduce the domination of traffic and improve access between key destinations such as work, home, school and leisure facilities. Above all, it aims to ensure that the local area remains a pleasant environment and addresses the concerns that many local residents have about the volume of traffic passing through Sturminster. The box below sets out the vision, aims and objectives relating to ease of movement.

Vision, aims and objectives to produce ease of movement	
Vision	<p>A town which is a pleasant environment in which to live and work and take leisure, and one which is not dominated by traffic</p> <p>An area where people are less dependent on the provision of transport, especially the private car, to participate fully in life</p> <p>An area where there is a better integration of land uses and a reduction in the feeling of isolation of both town and country</p>
Strategic Aims	<p>Remove unnecessary traffic from the area, especially in the town, whilst maintaining easy access for local residents</p> <p>Improved road access to locations where road transport remains important</p> <p>Improving conditions for pedestrians and cyclists</p> <p>Increasing and enhancing public transport links</p> <p>Planning for the juxtaposition of key land uses.</p>
Strategic Objectives	<p>To reduce traffic through the town and to slow its speed by the use of positive and negative means</p> <p>To encourage Dorset County Council to improve and, where appropriate, better manage, the strategic road network, particularly the north-south link</p> <p>To improve road signage at a local level, in order to avoid traffic through the town, to facilitate direction and traffic management and to enhance viability of local services and attractions</p> <p>To influence North Dorset District Council at early stages of plan preparation in order to achieve optimum inter-relationship of land uses</p> <p>To discuss with bus operators, local authorities, volunteer groups and others, including retail and leisure operators, how to provide better for the transport needs of the area for work, education, shopping and leisure</p> <p>To increase safe and pleasant access to leisure facilities, whether they be built facilities in the towns and villages, or enjoyment of the countryside through an enhanced rights of way and permissive route system</p>

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Reduce traffic through Sturminster Newton by using signing to encourage traffic to use other routes	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Dorset County Council Highways Department	Dorset County Council	Issue submitted to local Transport Plan. Tony Mackle (DCC) to investigate	Need to promote North/South C13 route	Ongoing, but seems little improvement
Provide pedestrian footway and cycle way from Sturminster Newton to Rolls Mill Ind. Estate	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Open Spaces Group (footpaths)	Liveability	Existing footpath route checked	Possible to use existing footpaths. Needs route map and promotion. Cycleway requires land acquisition.	Route identified, but difficult to improve
Reduce peak time traffic by introduction of school travel plans	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Dorset County Council Highways and Education. Schools	Dorset County Council	Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan	Contact "Safe Routes to School" officers at DCC	Okeford Fitzpaine Primary School, St. Nicholas Primary School, Stalbridge Primary School, William Barnes Primary School all registered. Sturminster High School also doing School Travel Plan
Slow down traffic using a range of measures	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan Child Okeford Parish Plan Hinton St Mary Parish Plan Manston & Hammoon Parish Plan	Short	Dorset County Council Highways. Sturminster Newton Town Council.	Dorset County Council	Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan. Tony Mackle (DCC) to investigate.	Consider as part of Town Centre Enhancement project	Town Centre Enhancement scheme will have some minor impact on traffic speed. Some work has been done by schools to manage school related traffic.

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Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Improve footways between S.N. and Glue Hill	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Dorset County Council Highways	Dorset County Council	Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan. Proposal for continuous footway for Junction A357 to Romney Cottage, Glue Hill. Consultation Summer '05, construction Spring '06.		Completed 2007

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Reduce heavy traffic movements through the town by relocation of large traffic generators	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Dorset County Council Highways; North Dorset District Council Planning		Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan		No progress
Improve direction signing to and within the town	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Dorset County Council; Sturminster Newton Town Council	Dorset County Council; North Dorset District Council; Sturminster Newton Town Council	Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan	Signposting facilities, Link with town centre enhancement project	Not done as part of enhancement scheme as not enough funding. Some work being considered on this re The Exchange.
Discussions to improve "out of hours" bus services to S.N. from rural areas and to and from Bournemouth / Poole	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Dorset County Council; Relevant Local Transport Action Group		Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan	Meetings held with town of Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge and surrounding parishes, to consider local transport needs.	Changes to public transport will impact on Sturminster & parishes. DCC looking at more 'demand responsive' services. Local Transport Needs meeting held, but no real wish to run a Transport Action Group.

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Promote and develop community transport schemes (such as NORDCAT), particularly for people on low incomes, young people and older people	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan Child Okeford Parish Plan Glanvilles Wootton Parish Plan	Short	Dorset County Council Relevant Local Transport Action Group		Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan. LTP will include an Accessibility Strategy, which will probably highlight benefits of transport schemes.	Meeting held with town of Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge and surrounding parishes, to consider local transport needs.	Community transport schemes such as Nordcat likely to be more important.
Consider introduction of a "scooter scheme" for younger people	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Nordcat				Introduced Summer 2004
Plan ahead and liaise with regional government, D.C.C., NDDC and developers on planning issue to ensure that land use and transport are well integrated	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium/ long	Govt. office of the South West, Dorset County Council, North Dorset District Council, Sturminster Newton Town Council			Particularly important to have an input in the new Local Development Framework, which replaces the Local Plan.	

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Promote Jubilee Path to provide a north-south pedestrian/cycle route through the town	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short/medium	Open Spaces Group; North Dorset District Council	Liveability; Developers' contributions		Principle secured in Local Plan, except section from Station Road to Trailway not in Local Plan. This inclusion has been requested.	1 st section, Old Livestock Market completed spring 2008. 2 nd section, Butts Pond completed 2005. Section across Lairage Fields to be completed post 2011, but a permissive path will cover this section in the meantime. Proposal to be incorporated into land south of Station Road
Consider how traffic on the A357 can be reduced	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium / long	Dorset County Council Highways, North Dorset District Council Planning	Dorset County Council	Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan. The developing Regional Transport Strategy may reduce attractiveness of A357 for goods vehicles.		No strategic progress. Reduction of use of Rolls Mill as a Waste Vehicle depot will reduce traffic
Car Parking	Town Council meeting	Short	District Council, Town Council, SNATCH			District Council putting car park charges on Station Road carpark has highlighted car parking problems	Town Council, District Council, SNATCH & others working on solutions

Environment

Vision, aims and objectives

A key aim of the Action Plan is to protect and improve the local environment and landscape. Importantly, the Action Plan aims to enhance the town's appearance and character. The box below describes the vision, aims and objectives in relation to the environment.

Vision, aims and objectives for the environment	
Vision	An attractive rural area able to accommodate changes in farming practice and new development, and with well-maintained and managed habitats incorporating high biodiversity
Strategic Aims	<p>The maintenance of an attractive countryside and villages through the application of strong, but flexible, planning policies, which allow development necessary to sustain the rural economy and a strong, safe community fabric</p> <p>The retention of the small-scale, intimate nature of the town of Sturminster Newton, while recognising the need for its expansion</p> <p>The improvement of the townscape quality of Sturminster Newton through judicious development and redevelopment</p> <p>An increase in understanding of the countryside, of its interaction with the town and of how it works, through interesting forms of education and interpretation</p> <p>The management of the natural, historic and cultural heritage of the area in a cost-effective manner, involving members of the local community, where possible</p>
Strategic Objectives	<p>To facilitate a more diverse rural landscape through changes in farm management</p> <p>To ensure that funds are made available for the upkeep of listed buildings and structures</p> <p>To undertake a townscape audit of Sturminster Newton in order to determine its assets and detractors and to confirm public opinion on what character they feel the town should adopt or retain</p> <p>To produce design and redevelopment guidance to achieve the agreed townscape character</p> <p>To examine how developers' contributions can enhance the appearance of the town</p> <p>To improve the quality of the public realm in the town and to prevent its damage by activities of utilities.</p> <p>To enhance the environment of Butts Pond industrial estate to enable it to be more attractive to potential employers</p> <p>To provide additional educational and interpretation facilities in both town and country to help increase knowledge of the area's heritage</p>

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Preparation of townscape audit of S.N. and landscape assessment of the surrounding area. Production of design guidance for the town	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Sturminster Newton Town Council; NDDC; SturQuest	Liveability; NDDC			Design Guide prepared & currently going through consultation.
Preparation and implementation of an enhancement plan for the public places in the town, especially the market site	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short/medium	Sturminster Newton Town Council; NDDC	NDDC and others for market square area; Liveability for feasibility work			Town Centre Enhancement completed spring 2007. Development Brief prepared for the Station Road/Creamery site
Creation of attractive and “defensible” landscape features to mark the edges of the expanded town	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Sturminster Newton Town Council; NDDC; Open Spaces Group	Liveability			No progress

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Implementation of a landscape scheme to improve the appearance of Butts Pond Estate from Station Road	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Sturminster Newton Town Council; NDDC	NDDC; Liveability	NDDC is already considering this work		No progress
Consideration of how best to obtain and utilise developers' contributions by reviewing existing and best practice	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	NDDC	Liveability	The Liveability programme has recognised the problem of time lag, and hopes to be able to forward find some Section 106 funding.	Also need to encourage change of policy so some Section 106 benefit is retained in parishes.	Forward funding of Section 106 piloted 2004 – 2006 through Liveability.
Creation of attractive gateways to the town	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Sturminster Newton Town Council; NDDC; Local landowners				No progress

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Completion of the Butts Pond Amenity Fields handover, and link with the Jubilee Path	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Sturminster Newton Town Council; Open Spaces Group; NDDC	Carnegie Trust Liveability Other sources			Butts Pond Field transferred to Sturminster Newton Town Council Sept. '04. Implement improvement and Management Plan 2005 onwards. Managed in partnership by Town Council, Rangers & Butts Pond group. Achieved Local Nature Reserve status
Creation of a Countryside Centre, to promote access and understanding of the countryside	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	North Dorset Countryside Rangers; NDDC DCC Museum Society	NDDC DCC Liveability			Countryside Centre opened June 2006 in Sturminster House. With closure of Sturminster House, unable to find another local venue, so no longer in the area.
Sustainability checklist for project	Sturminster Newton Action Plan; consultation	Short	SturQuest; Sustainable Sturminster			Use Liveability and other checklists as examples	No progress
Preparation and implementation of a Stour Valley Management Plan	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	North Dorset Countryside Rangers; Environment Agency; English Nature; NDDC;			Research other examples	No progress

			DCC				
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Riverside Meadows Local Nature Reserve	North Dorset Countryside Rangers	Short	NFU; North Dorset Countryside Rangers; Open Spaces Group NDDC	Liveability	Management Plan drawn up	Achieve Local Nature Reserve status. Consider footbridge across river from Old Coach Road to Riverside Meadows	Achieved Local Nature Reserve Status. 2 disability fishing platforms provided (only ones in N Dorset)
Climate change	Community	Medium	all		Need to look at what can be done at a community level to reduce carbon footprints		Climate Change group started Autumn 2007. Renewable energy system (groundwater heat exchange) installed in The Exchange

Enhanced leisure, recreation and community facilities

Vision, aims and objectives

An important aspect of the Action Plan is to ensure that leisure, recreation and community facilities are continually improved. In particular, it aims to ensure that facilities in the local area cater for a wide range of interests. The box below sets out the vision, aims and objectives for this topic.

Vision, aims and objectives for enhanced leisure, recreation and community facilities	
Vision	Everyone, whether in town or country, has good access to improved, affordable local recreation, leisure and community facilities.
Strategic Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To allow all people to participate in sport and recreation within the area and access community facilities To maintain existing facilities and continue to improve the provision of, and access to, facilities for sport, recreation and the arts To provide for safe, acceptable access to facilities in nearby towns at an affordable rate Ensure that main stream services meet the needs of local people
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expand sport, recreation and community facilities in the local area To share facilities with Stalbridge residents To ensure adequate, adaptable facilities for the arts To maintain access into, and interpretation of, the countryside and to encourage a managed increase in visitor numbers within the area, compatible with its environmental capacity To negotiate for residents to have affordable use of all sports and leisure facilities To establish good bus services at all times to Bournemouth, Poole and other Dorset towns (see also Ease of Movement)

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Review the opportunities for provision of a swimming pool to serve the Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge area	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Long	NDDC; DCC; Sport England	Likely to need Section 106 contributions	SwimBus piloted for young people to Blandford pool in 2004 , but small take-up. Pilot ceased.	Swimming pools can be costly to run. Shared facility with High School	No progress made, except that William Barnes Primary School is opening its training pool in the summers
A review of the provision, and demand for, future facilities in the rural area for performing and visual arts	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan Marnhull Parish Plan	Medium	Artsreach NDDC				ArtsReach continues to promote parish venues Increasing role of The Exchange as an arts venue
Provide a multi-functional community building on the market site that can incorporate a range of uses, e.g. Community hall, learning facilities, covered market area	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Sturminster Newton Community Building Trust; Sturminster Newton Town Council; Sturminster Hall; NDDC	NDDC Liveability SWRDA DEFRA Lottery Local fundraising Trusts			The Exchange completed August 2007 and operational.

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Investigate the viability of educational tourism in the area	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Countryside Centre NDDC			Need for hostel type accommodation.	No progress, but will be considered as part of the Local Products Development project
Obtain funding for and promote development of a floodlit all-weather pitch	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Long	Football Club Sturminster Newton Town Council; NDDC High School	Likely to need Section 106 contributions		Potential to share sports pitches with High School	Land being secured by Football Club, and feasibility work starting
Continued funding for structures necessary for the completion of conversion of former railway line into the North Dorset Trailway	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	North Dorset Countryside Rangers; NDDC; Open Spaces Group	Liveability; NDDC; DCC	Feasibility study; significant lengths of Trailway already secured. Need to provide bridge at Fiddleford		Old railway line improved, and new bridge at Fiddleford installed. Improvements also carried out to Stalbridge Quiet Lane

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Investigate equitable financial arrangements to provide affordable entrance to and use of recreation and leisure facilities in Dorset	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	NDDC; Sturminster Newton Leisure Centre				No progress
Review the need for, and provide accordingly, children's play areas in the town and villages.	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan Marnhull Parish Plan	Short	Parish and Town Councils; Dorset Community Action	Awards for All		Community Development Worker to discuss with Play Area Advisor.	New play areas in Sturminster (Rixon Rec) & Marnhull N Dorset Play Forum set up by NDDC
Provide a greater range of after-school and school holiday activities for children, closely related to childcare facilities	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Youth & Community Service; DCC; Children & Young People's groups		Youth & Community Service run local "Focus on Youth" week each Summer. Social Care & Health	Need to provide activities for age groups outside Youth Club range (primarily 11-16). Need input of young people on what they want. Surveys carried out by Youth Club and at High School relevant. Need evidence. Involve SureStart Unit.	Being considered by key partners, particularly as art of 'Extended Schools'

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Prepare a strategy for access to the countryside, including links with trailways, long distance footpaths, etc.	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	North Dorset Countryside Rangers; NDDC; Town & Parish Councils; Open Spaces Group			Develop once feasibility of the full Trailway project established.	Kissing Gates project has made local footpaths more accessible, but no overall strategic plan progress
Continue to investigate potential locations for a skatepark and provide	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Sturminster Newton Town Council; skaters	Town Council NDDC Williams Williams	Working Group set up	Real problems finding a site	Unable to find suitable site in Sturminster BMX track a possible alternative, but still problems finding a location
Set up a working party to ensure that additional links for all traffic (in particular pedestrians and cyclists) can be established in the countryside, compatible with its capacity.	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan						No progress

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Expand facilities at S.N. sports centre	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short				Need to determine demand, identify what facilities people want. Provision of crèche facilities.	Leisure Centre will receive no NDDC funding w.e.f. April 2008, so considerable work ongoing to find an alternative way for the Centre to run.
Provide improved advice and facilities for providing young people with advice, e.g. on drugs and sexual health	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Youth & Community Service; Connexions	DCC	Youth Centre feasibility work on drop-in facility adjoining Youth Centre; fundraising ongoing		
Ensure that medical and health care facilities are expanded to meet the needs of everyone in the local community	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	N.D. Primary Care Trust			Ensure villages have medical facilities or access. Promote the use of Nordcat for access to medical facilities	New Medical Centre completed summer 2007
Develop statue project on old market site	Rotary	Short	Rotary Club; Arts Council; Sturminster Newton Town Council				Statue completed Summer 2006 Frink statue also secured for Railway Gardens

PARISH PLANS

There have been a number of Parish Plans developed in the Sturminster area. These are initiated by the parishes themselves, and belong to the parish. However, they are included in the Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan in their own right and to link in with wider issues.

Child Okeford & Hammoon Parish Plan, 2004

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Development The Parishes adopt a policy of modest & steady growth in the population of the parishes, and that this message is conveyed to NDDC, DCC and Central Government	Parish Plan		Parish Council, NDDC, DCC				
Development The Parishes seek mixed development that retains the character of Child Okeford and Hanford, and will encourage the type of local job creation residents are happy to see	Parish Plan		Parish Council, NDDC		Parish Design Statement prepared and adopted by NDDC		
Pre-school The Parishes actively support the plans to develop the local pre-school facility	Parish Plan		Parish Council, Pre-school		Pre-school project now operational, with new Childcare and Communal Learning Centre		

<p>Community facilities A joint meeting of the Village Hall & Community Centre committees, + the clubs & societies using these facilities, to determine the best solution for the parish's long term needs.</p>	Parish Plan		Village Hall, Pavillion, and local organisations		No joint way forward found, so both facilities developing for different users		
<p>Traffic Parish Council to develop a plan with DCC for solving the resident's concerns about traffic.</p>	Parish Plan		Parish Council, DCC		Work undertaken to reduce speed limits outside school Investigating joint use of SID		Plan that traffic restrictions can be included in the DCC Local Transport Plan
<p>Transport Parishes need to continue to monitor public transport services, & actively promote car sharing, use of NorDCAT & taxis</p>	Parish Plan		Parish Council				
<p>Funding Parish Council form a 'Funding Committee'</p>	Parish Plan		Parish Council				
<p>Parish Plan Parish Council continue to monitor progress of Parish Plan</p>	Parish Plan		Parish Council				

Glansville Wootton Parish Plan, 2007

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Village Hall Good range of activities, may look at wider range, e.g. coffee mornings, Yoga, etc	Parish Plan						
Transport Very limited public transport. Need to promote & use NorDCAT more	Parish Plan						
Housing Evidence of some, but limited, housing need	Parish Plan						
Play area Considered very good	Parish Plan				Request for a kick-about area from some young people		
Fire Station site How can this site be managed?	Parish Plan		Parish Meeting, Countryside Rangers		Fire Station site How can this site be managed?		

Hinton St Mary Parish Plan 2002, updated 2007

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Employment Development of workshops	Parish Plan		Private sector				No workshops achieved, but new Equestrian Centre set up in parish
Housing Provision of affordable housing	Parish Plan						Very difficult to achieve. " houses built by private sector currently rented to families, + 2 more to be built
Traffic Speeding traffic	Parish Plan		Parish Council, DCC				Discussion re use of SID, but decided not to proceed
Footpath Footpath to connect village & Sturminster	Parish Plan		Parish Council, DCC			Particularly needed for school students walking to & from High School	In DCC Capital programme for 2009
Crime	Parish Plan					General lack of Police presence	
The Mosaic, parish magazine	Parish Plan		Parish Council, The Mosaic			Funding a problem. Parish Council & local businesses agree to provide more support	
Village Hall To improve	Parish Plan		Village Hall Committee				Sports Pavilion refurbished, so can be used as hall. Car parking also extended
Dog fouling, Cricket pitch	Parish Plans		Parish Council				Notices put up, & dog bib promised by NDDC

Manston & Hammoon Parish Plan 2007

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Speeding traffic & road safety	Parish Plan		Parish Council, Safety Camera Partnership, DCC		Discussion on better use of SIDs		
Hammoon flooding	Parish Plan		DCC, Environment Agency				
Condition of roads	Parish Plan		Parish Council, DCC			Condition of roads, verges, ditches, etc	
Footpaths & hedges	Parish Plan		Parish Council, landowners, DCC		To meet with hedge owners		
New footpath needed to village hall/play area	Parish Plan		Parish Council		Tried to negotiate with landowners, but no success to date		
Security/HomeWatch	Parish Plan		Parish Council			HomeWatch scheme to consider	
Play area improvements	Parish Plan		Parish Council				
General tidy of village	Parish Plan		Parish Council, residents				
Development Control	Parish Plan		Parish Council, NDDC			Develop a statement to provide guidance to Parish Council & NDDC	
Communications	Parish Plan		Parish Council, local group			Village website and improve other forms of communication	
Parish Notice board	Parish Plan		Parish Council				

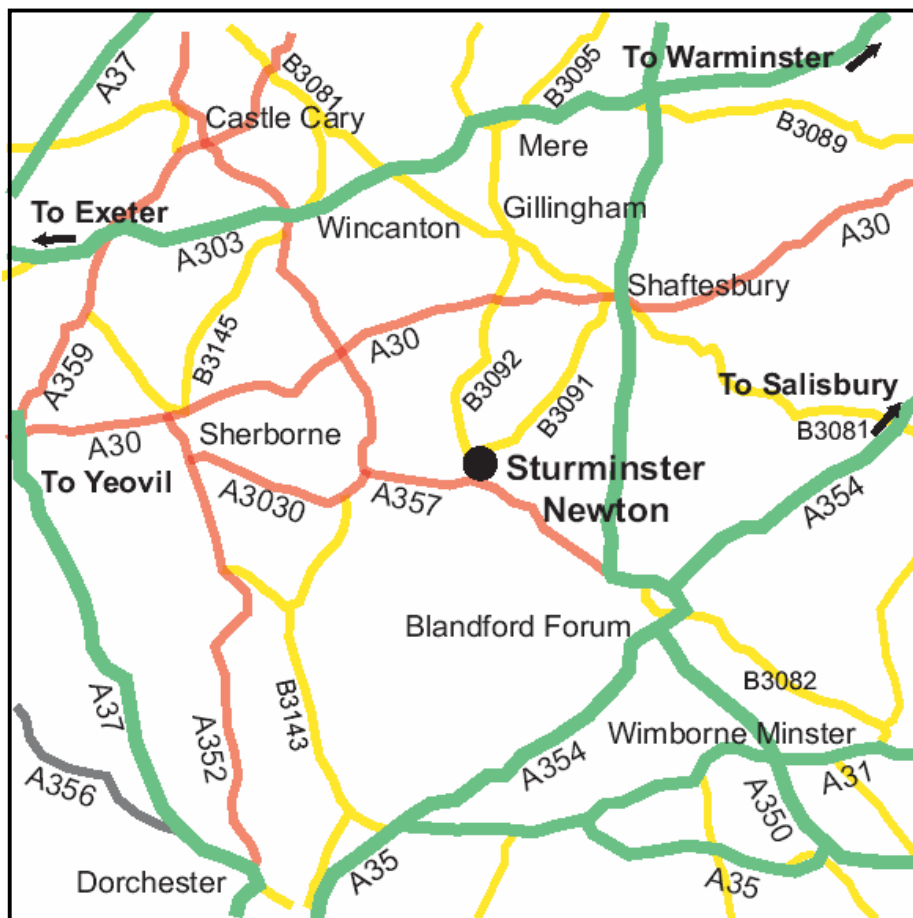
Marnhull Parish Plan, 2006

Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
<p>Future development Any development must be in character, not on green field sites and not overload current infrastructure. Also, develop village centre</p>	Parish Plan		Parish Council, NDDC			Need for a village centre	
<p>Housing Some but limited need for alternative accommodation. Parish Council to continue to support individual cases, and look at other options, e.g. Community Land Trust</p>	Parish Plan		Parish Council, NDDC				
<p>Pre-school Support provision of replacement building for the Jungle Hut Pre-school</p>	Parish Plan		Parish Council, Pre-school				
<p>Communication Need to improve communication, e.g. Marnhull Messenger website, noticeboards, promotion of the services of the surgery</p>	Parish Plan						
<p>Best Kept Village To enter</p>	Parish Plan		Parish Council & other groups				

Police Identified need for more police presence	Parish Plan		Parish Council, Police				
Future Development Strategy Identified that changes to working practices will change village life	Parish Plan		Parish Council & working group				
Pollution Fly infestation & muck on roads	Parish Plans		Parish Council, NDDC			Problem generated particularly by muck from chicken units	
Annual clean-up	Parish Plan		Parish Council, volunteers			Need more volunteers	
Dog Fouling Publicity campaign	Parish Plan		Parish Council			Continuing problem	
Recycling Improve recycling service to all parts of the village	Parish Plan		Parish Council, NDDC				
Wildlife Development of a conservation area, inc. a pond?	Parish Plan		Parish Council, Countryside Rangers			Includes management of verges, etc	
Footpath map	Parish Plan		Parish Council				New footpath maps produced
Traffic	Parish Plan		Parish Council, DCC				Detailed discussions on problem spots. Minor improvements made

Village Hall Review indoor sports potential	Parish Plan		Village Hall				Internal improvements have been made
Play area To improve	Parish Plan		Parish Council				Significant improvements made & new equipment installed made 2007/8
Swimming Pool Extend use of Primary School pool	Parish Plan		Parish Council, St Gregory's Primary School				
Mobile Cinema	Parish Plan		Parish Council, Village Hall, Moviola				
Teenager Shelter	Parish Plan		Parish Council, young people				
Youth Club Need for premises	Parish Plan		Parish Council, Youth Service				

Where does the Action Plan cover?



Sturminster Newton is a Market Town in North Dorset. The Action Plan covers the town and its catchment area. It is relevant to anyone who lives in Sturminster Newton itself or anyone else who uses the shops or facilities there or who works there. Lots of people in different settlements rely on Sturminster for particular things (for example, for the school or the shops). All of these people will benefit from improvements in Sturminster itself. In turn, people in Sturminster use facilities in other towns and villages and will benefit from improvements there too. It is important that all the towns and villages in the local area work together, each building on their own strengths so that everyone can enjoy a better quality of life.

How can I find out more?

If you would like to find out more about the Action Plan or get involved you can go to/contact:

Community Office
The Exchange
Old Market Hill
Sturminster Newton
DT10 1QU

Tel: 01258 471456

Alternatively you can look at the website:

www.sturminster-site.net