

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Planning Policy \(WODC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan -comments  
**Date:** 05 February 2026 14:42:55

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Dear Sir/Madam

We refer to the above plan Appendix A and C specifically and wish to comment as follows:

We are in agreement that there are no 'exceptional circumstances' that would permit further housing development in our rural village.

The Play school/ pre school facility currently has fewer demands than in previous years despite the seeming 'growth' in young babies and children now residing in the community.

"New" / modern parents preferring to take their babies/toddlers by private transport to outlying breakfast/after school all day nurseries outside of the village now. The requirement and trend suggesting that young parents are asking for an all day longer support for their children.

This might suggest that incoming new families are tending to be more 'estranged' to village and rural life per se (as evidenced by both the preschool and local primary school with reduced incoming numbers).

Stonesfield had a thriving butchers, bespoke Post Office, busy hairdressers,shop and (originally) 7/8 public houses. Local businesses (such as Witney Welding) forced to close or move out of the village as the new demands for a "cotswold country house" deemed more a necessity?

The village has witnessed significant character changes with the modern demands. Reduced public transport; over stretched and over strained infrastructures such as sewerage,water and electricity power lines. The once reliable telephone exchange also on bended knee with the demands. Roads have become extraordinarily difficult with crater sized pot holes.

GREEN SPACE

Stonesfield's access to green space is also under pressure with local land owners insisting that hedgerow walking to the edge of fields no longer permitted. Blenheim Palace continues to assert it's might with replacing fencing that now reduces edge of road space and maintenance along with marshalling with authority nearby footpaths and previously enjoyed local walks.

Our rural community (as was) is being 'squeezed' and distorted feeling increasingly under threat and on 'borrowed time', by policy makers devoid of local knowledge and understanding of the delicate balance needed for a thriving rural village.

Yours faithfully

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