

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning Policy \(WODC\)](#)
Subject: Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation feedback
Date: 07 February 2026 13:02:27

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I would like to tender my wholehearted support for the Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan. It is based on evidence taken from the residents in 2023 and after full consultation with them through displays, presentations, Q&A sessions, regular monthly bulletins in the Slate and on the village website. As result of feedback to the original draft, it was significantly amended. The final draft is, in my view, a prime example of clear drafting and is a faithful reflection of the residents' wishes.

I would like to highlight two aspects of the Plan: Local Green Spaces and Housing.

In the Village Survey 2023, 573 out of 584 respondents (more than 98%) felt that protecting green spaces was very important or important. All of the spaces proposed in the Plan achieved strong agreement from 57% or more of the 578 respondents. The graph on page 3 of Appendix C shows very clearly how much support the residents gave to the proposals for green spaces. Protecting them will ensure the village retains its rural character, its views and its beauty – all cited as reasons for choosing to live here and an integral aspect of being in the AONB.

The Housing Needs Assessment in Appendix A sets out very clearly that the housing need in Stonesfield is for affordable housing on a small scale, preferably in rural exception sites. The village cannot support any more major developments (10 or more dwellings). We do not have the infrastructure: our water provision, drainage and sewage are already way below optimal, resulting in very low water pressure and frequent sewage overflows; our roads are narrow and often do not have pavements; there is insufficient public transport to ensure the owners of new builds would be able to get to work, **schools** and centres of commerce/culture/health without using a car. There are no exceptional circumstances which would warrant building any more major developments in Stonesfield

The 2023 Survey focussed heavily on housing needs and no exceptional need was identified for the next five years. There is no requirement for additional market housing and no requirement for a major development. There may be a very small shortfall of social/affordable housing in the next five years which could be satisfied by rural exception sites. These types of development would benefit people with a local connection, whereas large developments of expensive houses would undoubtedly attract people with no local connection and two cars per household.

yours,
[REDACTED]