

# STOKE

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan  
Document Consultation 16/02/2011 – 30/03/2011



## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

This is a summary of some of the key issues emerging from the consultation process. Fuller versions of the representations can be viewed below.

Thirteen individual representations were received, just over half of whom thought that the summary of the neighbourhood was a reasonable reflection of the situation. The main reason given for those who disagreed with the summary was that not enough emphasis was given to traffic related matters.

### Shopping

There was general degree of satisfaction with shopping, although references were made to the closure of shops in Stoke village, and the need for more variety.

### Local Issues

Traffic and transport related issues such as pollution, congestion, pedestrian safety, and parking came out as the biggest local concern. Community facilities including the need for more children's and youth facilities were also high on the list of local priorities. Improvements to open spaces including problems of litter broken glass and dog mess was also raised by a number of people.

Other local concerns were vandalism to vehicles, lack of affordable housing, need to preserve the character of the area, street cleaning and the need to pollard street trees.

### Important Greenspaces

Blockhouse Park is identified as being of major importance but almost unusable due to broken glass and dog mess. Victoria and Devonport Parks are also of significant importance. Allotments are vitally important, but waiting lists are too long. It was also stated that all green spaces in and around the neighbourhood should be preserved. It was also stated by several respondents that the old railway line between Kings Road and Rectory Road is an important area for wildlife.

### Potential development sites

Very few sites for development were identified and a number of respondents said that there should be no further development. Re-use of empty shops was identified, and ST12 to the east of Devonport High School and north of Paradise Road was suggested as being suitable for development.

### Other Comments

- Need to be protected from through traffic.
- Re new allotments behind Paisley St, or create a community garden for food production
- Security fencing at Penlee allotments .
- Poor bus service, and train service at Devonport.
- Litter and congestion caused by car boot sales
- Permit parking should be limited to one per household.
- Two churches have community halls for hire. No point in building any more.

Q2 – How are you connected with this neighbourhood?

Q3a – Do you generally agree with the summary of this neighbourhood?

Q3b – If not, what would you like to change?

Q4 – What do you think of the shopping facilities?

Q5 – Briefly in order of importance, what do you think are the biggest issues in the neighbourhood? e.g. youth facilities, traffic, affordable homes etc.

Q6a – Which green spaces/parks are important to you and why? (please identify them using the numbers on the map)

Q6b – Are there any areas of green or open space that are not shown which you feel should be protected? Please explain why

Q7 – Identify any sites you feel should or could be developed and for what purpose?

Full Name	Q2	Q3a	3b	Q4	Q5	Q6a	Q6b	Q7	Other comments
Mrs Jane Modica-Cliff SNDPD17	resident	Yes		Could do with more variety - turning them into housing not a good idea as you need a collection of businesses to make them viable.	<p>Traffic - given that as you point out most of us do not commute or add to the massive amount of traffic going up and down Devonport Rd night and day - it seems remarkable that we have no rights to have safe crossings, signs/lights warning about school children- we are just allowed to be victims of the vast number of commuters who come and take our jobs whilst living out in the leafy suburbs themselves. And if this latest plan about an incinerator goes ahead the situation will be made much worse. This will pollute our ears and our air even more than the current high levels of traffic do! It is an outrageous way to manage our waste and our so called sustainable communities!</p> <p>Secondly, the dog mess and broken glass on our streets and green spaces makes them unusable by children. How can small children be expected to use the park when the public toilets seem to close at about 3pm just as they come out of school. With very young children and disabled children this is a nightmare! There are generally very few facilities for children and/or the disabled except for the library which has had its number and range of books reduced to create a community room which is hardly used, but when it is provides about the only services available in our area. We do not have a children's centre but many of the children living in privately rented flats in the area, have access to fewer activities/ spaces than other children in supposedly more deprived areas of the city.</p>	The blockhouse park - could be beautiful and great fun for children if it wasn't for the broken glass, dogs and dog mess. They cannot roll on the grass or play without needing to be constantly aware of these. The allotments are vitally important as our gardens are too small and too polluted to grow our own food on, but the waiting list was years long!	All - because many of us cannot afford to travel far and riding bikes are too dangerous because of the traffic and many roads don't have any pedestrian crossings or time eg. top of ford hill/ Devonport rd - you have to take your life in your hands and run as there is no time allowed for people to cross!	Empty shops as community services/ activities. Anywhere to provide jobs - Nicholls closed down and a loss of local jobs -> hundreds of new houses creating no local jobs but the need for more parking, sewerage, congestion and local services (without any being obviously provided)	To be sustainable we need to be protected from the unsustainable lifestyles of others -not to be a rat run between other places - particularly as you suggest we do not ourselves do not tend to engage in this behaviour ourselves. We do not want to be poisoned by more road traffic pollution or pollution from an incinerator on our door step! We need to make more of our open spaces and maybe renew the allotments that used to be up at the block house behind Pasley Street or create some kind of community garden where many could participate in growing food on a community basis.
MR Neil Cliff SNDPD19	Resident	No	The summary is accurate in some respects but I would like there to be a greater emphasis on improving	The village has a reasonable range of shops given the proximity of the city	1) Pollution/congestion and pedestrian safety should be a priority. Given that Plymouth has a micro climate, according to research conducted by	All green spaces have value to members of our community. It seems quite artificial not to recognise the close links that			As already noted this area requires some greater investment in terms of infrastructure and community resources.

Stoke		<p>congestion and road safety throughout Stoke. I agree that there are issues with emissions and congestion at the Ford Hill and Milehouse Road junction but problems associated with congestion run throughout the village and this should be considered as well. There is a need to address not just congestion and pollution but also traffic speed. I would suggest looking at making parts of Stoke a 20 mile an hour zone, making the area not just less polluted but safer for the local community. There are several schools in the area, care homes and disabled communities and access for pedestrians should be safer.</p> <p>There is also a greater need to consider pedestrians at the Milehouse/Ford junction, Molesworth Road, Devonport Road and the Albert Road/Devonport Road Junction. The Zebra crossings in the area need to be enhanced to ensure that Stoke is pedestrian friendly. Investing in cycle paths has some merit but the roads are narrow and splitting pavements to create cycle paths is unlikely to encourage greater cycling. A 20 hour mile an hour zone would of course make cycling far safer. Ensuring that the path behind the Community College is more accessible and secure would be one good way of opening up foot and cycle access to Central Park and the Life Centre.</p>	<p>centre. I am sure that the economic downturn has impacted on our local shops meaning that some have been forced out of business. The mix of shops has reduced in recent years, which may be linked to the growth of supermarkets. Decades ago the village did have a different character, which suggests that Stoke has been through tough economic times.</p>	<p>the University of Plymouth, which, means that dioxins etc concentrate rather than disperse, congestion must be harming the residents of this area and other parts of Plymouth. I feel that on this basis the Council should under no circumstances add to these problems by building new incineration facilities within the city. This area has a number of vulnerable citizens who would benefit from a reduction in emissions and reduced traffic speeds.</p> <p>1) Community Facilities should be protected and prioritised. There is a distinct shortage of facilities for the younger generation, which has been the case for decades. Perhaps the Council should give more support to the Scouts, who are part of the `big society`. The Community Centre also deserves investment.</p> <p>Preserving the Library, one of the few community facilities that is intergenerational must be a priority but it is quite possible that it will be closed as part of the cuts to community services.</p> <p>The blockhouse would benefit from investment and could be made into a far more child friendly environment and possibly used in part for community gardens. There is a need to make sure that local parks are community resources, so that small children do not run the risk of being cut by broken bottles, which in turn links back to the need for greater investment in facilities for the younger generation.</p> <p>There should be a larger number of allotments made available to local residents, as this is an area in which many residents have no gardens or tiny spaces.</p> <p>During the economic downturn shops could be used as community facilities to ensure that the commercial sector survives the slowdown in the economy. It is vital that jobs are preserved within Stoke.</p> <p>1) Affordable housing is a priority but there is a shortage of land in this area for affordable housing. The younger generation face serious difficulties</p>	Stoke has to other communities in Plymouth.			
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					<p>buying or renting in this area. Any brownfield sites that did exist have been turned into housing. This issue needs citywide solutions.</p> <p>l) Preserving the character of the area is of value to the community and one of the reasons people live in Stoke.</p> <p>l) Some investment in the infrastructure in Stoke would be welcomed by almost all residents.</p>				
Mr Steven Bevan SNDPD69 Stoke	Resident	No	As a resident I would like to be notified of any changes eg: sequence of lights at junction of Ford Hill/ Milehouse road. Due to someone complaining of car fumes the lights have been changed so as now we have a build up of cars at the junction of our street with cars blocking access to and from Beresford street at peak times. We also have cars, vans and lorries racing through our street to avoid the lights endangering the children who play here. The Light sequence at the top of Ford Hill does not allow pedestrians any time to cross at all. Permit parking limited to 1 car per household would ease some of the parking issues, as it is very rare I am able to park in my own street.	The facilities in Stoke village are starting to dwindle as more and more businesses are trying to make a living but due to limited parking and vandalism to cars they seem to come and go very quickly.	Vandalism to vehicles, and congestion. Parking in and around Stoke is becoming harder.	The Blockhouse is very important the children need somewhere nearby to play safely.	N/A	Any more alterations to Stoke would take away its character altogether.	Letters through residents in the area would be more useful than sticking bits of paper to posts as was done to tell about the proposed change of traffic flow.
Mr Brian Roach SNDPD87 Stoke	resident	Yes		fairly good	traffic, cycle lanes, green areas	STO3 have an allotment there.	Behind Rectory Road backing on to Kings Road, it is an overgrown green belt that has an abundance of wildlife. It was a tidal pain with a stream running down it.		Penlee allotment site needs more security i.e the chain mail fence is damaged and needs repairing. Vandals broke into the site over the weekend and wrecked crops and broke into sheds/huts. Allotment officer informed me.  Have been trying for lots of years to purchase the overgrown land behind rectory road to stop houses been built on to it and to have a garden for the house.
Ann Skulsky SNDPD133 Stoke	Resident		Not entirely 1. Bus service is hopeless. 2. Trains carriage small trains don't stop at Devonport regularly, or even allow hailing them. 3. Stop has been devastated	With a poor bus service people without cars can only shop for food in Stoke i.e. The Co-op. There is no independent food shop anymore except bakers. Yet more and more large	Transport - we need busses every 15 mins and at least half hourly till 11pm. We need to conserve green space.	STO - see above ST12 seems to have no purpose - neither recreational nor habitat - place to walk dog?	Again, see above, dismantled railway I'm happy to provide my notes about this site.	ST12 - Do we need more sports facilities? It strikes me as a place ripe for development even if housing.	I am happy to provide my comments make re Dismantled Railway and those I sent to Transport Plan

			by SWEB and despite protests to preserve this unique place of green site i.e. one naturally grown from closure of railways, PCC has given permission for allotments.	supermarkets are being built putting pressure on local shops.					
Miss Debbie Zappa SNDPD140 Stoke	Resident	Yes		Good	Too many pubs closing!	The area between Kings Road and behind Rectory Road (Old Railway Line in between). It is a wildlife haven of birds, bats butterflies, mice tawny owls. We would be willing to purchase our area if necessary.			
Ms Vanessa Downing SNDPD148 Stoke	Resident			With Aldi/Lidl also in the local area there are plenty	Parking is the biggest issue in the Rectory, Rugby in particular causes problems at weekends with parents parking in the street for practice. Also children throwing stones at windows from the college bank	ST12 is used for recreational use	The land behind Rectory Road should be maintained and residents are keen to negotiate over this.		Concerns about the litter created by Stonehouse car boot which also adds to parking problems experienced at weekends.
Mr K Bowgen SNDPD149 Stoke	Resident	Yes		Satisfactory for everyday essentials	Have no issues in this neighbourhood with traffic or parking	ST12 and ST10 for use of dog walking ST10 being part of church is I feel sacred ground because of the headstones on pathways	None	None	The disused railway bank from the college down to Stonehouse creek we would like it not to be developed on, however the opportunity given to residents in Rectory Road to make use of the land for gardens.
Miss Sukhi Lota SNDPD162 Stoke	Resident	Yes		Living on the Rectory I use Stoke Village for shopping and sometimes I walk to Union Street.	Free facilities for young people to keep them out of mischief  Street cleaning  More regular pollarding of the trees on Rectory Road	The land behind Rectory Road is an important green space that improves my life outside of work. It is very relaxing looking at the natural wilderness behind and acts as a barrier for noise from cars on Kings Road.	As above, I also enjoy Devonport Park at Stonehouse Recreation playing fields. I sometimes walk to Victoria Park.		I use Devonport Station to get to work in St Austell. The station area could be improved by providing a proper shelter and seating for when the train is late. At the moment the shelter has not side panels and no seating. Sometimes I have had to stand for 45 minutes to an hour waiting for a delayed train.
Ann Marie Walker SNDPD165 Stoke	Resident		Too many flats, traffic calming in Milehouse, more buses to run on time.	Need more shops e.g. Derrys, Woolworths, clothes and food shops for disabled people who cant reach high shelves.	More stuff eg sports for disabled people more football for disabled people.	Don't use them too far to go. I am close to Central Park.	More green space near King Road College.	N/A	Bullying of disabled people in City Centre is a problem and same on the buses. Need more college opportunities for disabled people. Disabled people shouldn't have to show bus passes as it's awkward and bus drivers are rude and not helpful. Need number 46 bus back.
Sarah Black SNDPD187 Stoke	Resident	Yes		ok, some nice antique shops and independent traders in Millbridge Road, would be nice to have a corner shop nearer to Rectory Road	Traffic and parking in the area, especially Sunday at 10am, when car boot, sports matches are on. Petty crime ie car vandalism and broken windows	ST12 - Devonport Park, space for families, dog walking leisure. ST13 - Devonport Services Rugby Ground, valuable sports facility	Yes - Railway Embankment between Rectory Road and Kings Road, valuable green space for wildlife and this bank protects the back of our house from the noise on the busy Kings Road, this area would be great for residents gardens	Do not feel Stoke should be developed any further, lots of new blocks of flats ie the Victoria & Millbay , don't think the infrastructure is there to support new housing schools and development shops	
E.R Behan SNDPD255 Stoke	Resident	Yes		Good					

<p>Mrs Janet Vickers SNDPD329 Stoke</p>	<p>Resident</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Not all points. Devonport services sports e.g Victoria, Central and Devonport Park, Stoke Snidly Park ST06, ST07</p> <p>We are bounded by excellent green space/sports no need for anymore within Stoke. No large population is ever seen in these areas!</p>	<p>Perfectly alright. Don't make anymore, large co-op and facilities in Millbridge. 3 hair dressers, post office, pharmacy, stationer, florist, charity - what more do we want?</p>	<p>Dangerous junction at Albert/Devonport Roads. Poor visibility. Reported to police who said we need 2-3 deaths before worth doing anything</p> <p>Dangerous at Molesworth Road/Wilton Street lights - cars can turn on to pedestrian crossing when lights are red - suggest zebra crossing is moved up.</p>	<p>All, especially Victoria and Devonport. There are plenty of trees and gardens within Stoke. Surely you don't intend to knock down houses to plant grass?</p>	<p>Victoria and Devonport Park</p>	<p>Strange question. Stoke is densely populated and there are no bomb sites or areas of demolition that I am aware of!</p>	<p>Postal address change made last year to call Fitzroy Terrace part of Fitzroy Road. This as expected has confused the postman. Fitzroy Road is the area below the bridge - only 5 houses and 1930s. Fitzroy Terrace is 1860s from the bridge to Collingwood Road. What was the purpose of this confusion! Your sketch shows only Fitzroy Road.</p> <p>Where is the Parish Church and Methodist Church?</p> <p>Comment about diverse communities: this aspect of Stoke is very good and has come about naturally. Personally I would prefer not to live in a solely council house area, or in an area where all homes were owner occupied. However I question 'concern has been expressed about how well these different communities get along'</p> <p>Becoming a community usually occurs when you hold something in common. We do all live in Stoke and the only activity I can think arising from that is 'street parties'. In Stoke we must have communities of Soccer lovers, rugby lovers, church goers, bridge players, parents of primary/secondary school pupils. In fact, interest is what makes a community of a divers group of people. There are, I'm sure a number of such communities in Stoke. They will be made up of people of different social classes, education, material prosperity and even nationalities.</p> <p>To claim to have concern that different communities in Stoke fail to get on together is ridiculous and even potentially dangerous as to me it smacks of big brother!</p> <p>Both the parish Church and the Methodist Church have community halls which are hired out by a variety of groups. No point at all in expecting to build a community hall which would incur great expense.</p>
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