

**Its important before we move forward to
take a look at the past !**

PAST OBJECTIVES AND ACHIVEMENTS

- Provided land for The churchyard extension (2009)
- Constructed a path between Dikes & Pound Close (2010)
- Provided allotment land (2010)
- Purchased grit bins for the Town (2010)
- Jarvis field play area equipment renewal (2011)
- Shaping Stalbridge event (2012)
- Built The Hub (2013)
- Supported the setting up of the community library (2013)
- The creation of stalbridge.info, town web site (2015)
- The Ring Project (2015)
- Provided enhanced Town Orderly services (2015)

PAST OBJECTIVES AND ACHIVEMENTS

- Contributed to the District wide local plan (2016)
- Carried out a Youth Survey (2016)
- Put new lights on the lime tree (2017)
- Helped set up community run Youth Club & provided funding (2017)
- Station Rd car park & allotment land transfers (2018)
- Housing development consultation (2018)
- Jubilee play area equipment renewal (2018)
- Funded the Playing Fields pavilion refurbishment (2019)
- Market Cross refurbished and information board installed (2019)
- Jarvis field pump track constructed (2019)

PAST OBJECTIVES AND ACHIVEMENTS

- Adopted and refurbished red phone boxes (2019)
- Custodian of the Stalbridge Archive (2019)
- Purchased and deployed a speed indicator device (2019)

Elections

- Commissioned a Stalbridge flag to be flown on The Ring (2019)
- Rental agreement for milk vending machine (2019)
- Supported the Stalbridge Goes wild (wild flower) project (2019)
- Contributed to the Dorset Plan (2020)

Total grants over the period 2009-2020 to local groups and organisations £126,369.00

Now lets think about the future !

What is a Town Council Business Plan?

The aim of this Town Council Business Plan is to set out how the Town Council will deliver on its vision, values, objectives and key priorities for the next three years.

The purpose of this Business Plan is to set out the actions that Stalbridge Town Council will take, working with the local community and relevant partner organisations to achieve our objectives for sustainable and appropriate local change.

Why ?

Having an agreed strategy will provide a framework for STC to work within, enabling it to operate in a consistent and co-ordinated way.

It's not about you it's about them

It is intended that the development of the Business Plan will be based on community engagement and involvement, so that STC will become more confident and proactive in its decision-making, knowing that it has the support of parishioners.

Do they know what we do?

This Business Plan will provide the local community and partner organisations with clear information about how the Town Council intends to conduct its business over the next 3 years and will set out our expectations for partnership working in a rational, clearly-argued and accurately costed document that explains and justifies how we spend our allocated budget. It will also set out our ambitions for what we hope to achieve in securing additional grant funding that we need for specific projects and services.

It is a 'live' document

The Business Plan will need to respond to changing circumstances and community requirements and will therefore be a living document that is reviewed, tested and amended on an annual basis. It will also be used to inform the budget process, plan future activities and enable the Town Council to monitor progress against its key priorities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Any plan, can only succeed if the people it affects support and actively participate in achieving and delivering it. So, this Business Plan for Stalbridge can only succeed if the community believe in it, back it and play their part in bringing it to fruition.

To ensure it is consistent with residents' wishes, it will need ongoing input and feedback from the community.

We will request and respond to that feedback and regularly consult through our website, **social media**, public meetings and newsletter.

The Business Plan, and subsequent updates, will be made available for community scrutiny on both the Town Council website and Stalbridge.info.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

It's main areas of responsibilities are:

- Civic building 'The Hub'
- Street cleaning
- Planning consultee
- Local public amenities ;
- Public WC's
- Car park
- Street furniture and waste & grit bins
- Play facilities
- Management of some local green spaces
- Traffic speed management on the A357 & Station Rd (SID)
- Provides grant funding to local groups & organisations

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

- We may wish to work more closely with our neighbours, so traditional village/ town 'boundaries' will become increasingly blurred. Our 'community' may embrace others and vice versa.

THE ROLE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Example statement

It is the role of Stalbridge Town Council (STC) to manage its responsibilities within the community with an over-riding objective of maintaining the rural character of the town.

The Town Council has a Mission Statement and this sets out its overall aims:

Examples of what might be included:

- Promote Stalbridge as a pleasant and safe place to live and work
- Be proactive with agreed short and longer terms goals
- Understand the needs of residents, and to seek to address these needs within the resources and powers available
- Be transparent, and informative on Town matters by all appropriate means
- Give value for money for the services and facilities provided by the Council to the Towns community
- Seek external funding wherever possible to extend the scope of its activities in the interest of the community and/or community assets

EXAMPLES OF OBJECTIVES

- To provide an apolitical, democratic and representative voice for the community;
- To promote and represent the community's views at local and unitary level;
- To strive to ensure there is a fair share of investment in the Town by the principal authority in services that benefit the community;
- To ensure good governance and to be a professional and competent council, that is fully open and accountable to the community and ensures sound financial management of council resources;
- To provide cost effective services, amenities and facilities to meet the needs and expectations of Stalbridge residents, businesses and community groups;
- To promote a healthy, sustainable and balanced community that is free from discrimination and is safe and prosperous and retains an attractive environment;
- To protect the heritage and attractive environment of the Town and promote and encourage initiatives to enhance its appearance;
- To respond effectively to the **challenges** facing the community and to promote and develop new initiatives and services that address these challenges;

EXAMPLES OF OBJECTIVES

- To encourage and support local businesses;
- To encourage and provide housing that meets the needs of the community especially affordable housing for younger residents;
- To resist inappropriate development within the Town and encourage only development that meets local needs;
- Encourage the preservation, promotion and conservation of the natural environment
- Encourage energy efficiency and environmental sustainability

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING US ?

Examples ;

- Maintaining a cohesive community which is growing in numbers
- Providing appropriate infrastructure;
- lack public transport options
- Highlighting any deficits in public services in a time of austerity;
- Ensuring local business growth and prosperity;
- Preventing inappropriate development;
- Ensuring new development meets high standards of design;
- Improving community consultation and communication with residents

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH CHALLENGES ?

HOW MIGHT THE PLAN LOOK

Challenge :

Which objective does this relate to:

Potential Actions

Priority Long/Medium/Short Term

WHAT AN ACTION PLAN MIGHT LOOK LIKE

Stalbridge Town Council Business Plan date / date Action Plan				
Ref.	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Timing	Cost

Information from previous consultations

Suggestions from shaping Stalbridge :

More affordable housing

Save Stalbridge library

Broadband needs to be improved

New locations for grit bins

~~Setting up a community partnership~~

More allotments needed

Regular list of jobs be advertised

Stalbridge website needed

Better public transport

Hall: more activities needed eg film club, classes Improve facilities for older children eg skate park, café

Extend the Trailway

Turn off streetlights from midnight till dawn

Start cardboard recycling collections

Introduce farmer's market or local produce market

(Open Stalbridge School pool for the public, weekends/holidays)

Loyalty card scheme for Stalbridge shops

Look at Duck Lane parking and access problem

Pedestrian crossing

Problem of HGVs

More cycle routes

Litter and dog fouling an issue

Renewable energy ideas for the town

Information from the youth survey

Summary

- Social interaction is very important to all young people – they want to visit and meet their friends and would like somewhere informal they can do this.
- They are also very keen to be able to use technology and the results reflect this (internet café comes high on the list of preferred activities) which generally means indoor activity.
- Many desired activities are not available and other constraints exist, such as lack of transport and cost,
- There is obviously still a big appetite for sports and other activities, which should be actively encouraged.
- Most of those surveyed in this age group own a bike, scooter or skateboard and a skateboard park and a BMX track feature highly in the list of desired activities, followed closely by a multi-use games area, Adventure Park and martial arts.

Conclusion

- The way forward could be to provide informal meeting places both inside and outside that enable the use of technology combined with the preferred physical activities. The ideal situation being two facilities consisting of an internet café & Mugga with a facility for use of technology.
- Provision of suitable facilities will be a big step towards inspiring young people to develop their social skills and general health and well-being.

