

December 2003

Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan

Working Document

November 2004

Planning for our own future...

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?	
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 Forum by Summer 2005
Promote rapid occupation of non-supermarket retail units at the livestock market site	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Charles Higgins Partnership				Occupation by Summer 2005

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.	
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				
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		Need to set up working group by, say, Summer 2005.

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	Training needs in e-commerce identified by Spring 2005.

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				
Create small scale units to be used as workshops/offices	Sturminster Newton Area Action 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	Anticipate completion business starter units in Community Centre Spring 2006.
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.	Community Centre complete Spring 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
Encourage housing developers to provide more affordable housing units within new developments	Sturminster Newton Area Action 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.	
Provide improved careers and employment advice for all	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Job Centre			Consider how Job Centre Plus can provide more local service. Consider Job Centre Point in new community building.	
Provide improved/ more extensive child care facilities for pre-school children so that parents have the opportunity to work	Sturminster Newton Area Action 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	

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 signposting capability by Spring 2005 and Community Learning Plan.
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	Community Learning Plan completed by Spring 2005.
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.	

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		Provision of premises in Community Centre Spring 2006.
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.			Provide support for William Barnes School. Provision of better parking / drop-off facilities in short term. Combine with pre-school / out of school facilities.	

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. Consider opportunity for Job Centre to use Community Centre facilities.	

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	Need to promote North/South C13 route	
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.	Footpath Route Map by Autumn 2005.
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	
Slow down traffic through S.N. using a range of measures	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Dorset County Council Highways. Sturminster Newton Town Council.	Dorset County Council	Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan	Consider as part of Town Centre Enhancement project	
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	Project in County Council Capital Programme? To check timescales.	

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		
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	
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	Meeting to be held with town of Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge and surrounding parishes, to consider local transport needs.	Local Transport Needs meeting by Spring 2005.

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	Short	Dorset County Council Relevant Local Transport Action Group		Issue submitted to Local Transport Plan	Meeting to be held with town of Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge and surrounding parishes, to consider local transport needs.	Local Transport Needs meeting by Spring 2005
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 to be completed 2004/5. 2 nd section, Butts Pond to be completed 2005. Section across Lairage Fields to be completed post 2011, but a permissive path will cover this section in the meantime.
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		

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		Carry out townscape audit first. Consider Local Design Statement as method. Link with town centre enhancement project	
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	Initial meeting to co-ordinate planning October '04	Phase I Market Square Phase II Barnes Close car park	Await closure of Station Road before significant work on Phase I design
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		Initial study with support from Liveability?	

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		Spring 2005
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				

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	Initial Management Plan for Butts Pond drawn up by N. Dorset Countryside Rangers	Achieve Local Nature Reserve status?	Butts Pond Field transferred to Sturminster Newton Town Council Sept. '04. Implement improvement and Management Plan 2005
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 being piloted in Sturminster House	Links with Museum to give historical perspective; can be developed if joint premises available. Link with other Field Studies type centres across Dorset	Winter 2004
Sustainability checklist for project	Sturminster Newton Action Plan; consultation	Short	SturQuest; Sustainable Sturminster			Use Liveability and other checklists as examples	Develop checklist by Spring 2005
Preparation and implementation of a Stour Valley Management Plan	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	North Dorset Countryside Rangers; Environment Agency; English Nature; NDDC; DCC			Research other examples	
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	

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. May extend for all community in Autumn 2004.	Swimming pools can be costly to run. Shared facility with High School	
A review of the provision, and demand for, future facilities in the rural area for performing and visual arts	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Artsreach NDDC			Community Development Worker to discuss with Artsreach	
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	Centre designed. Full planning permission granted. Business Plan written.		Construction start Spring 2005

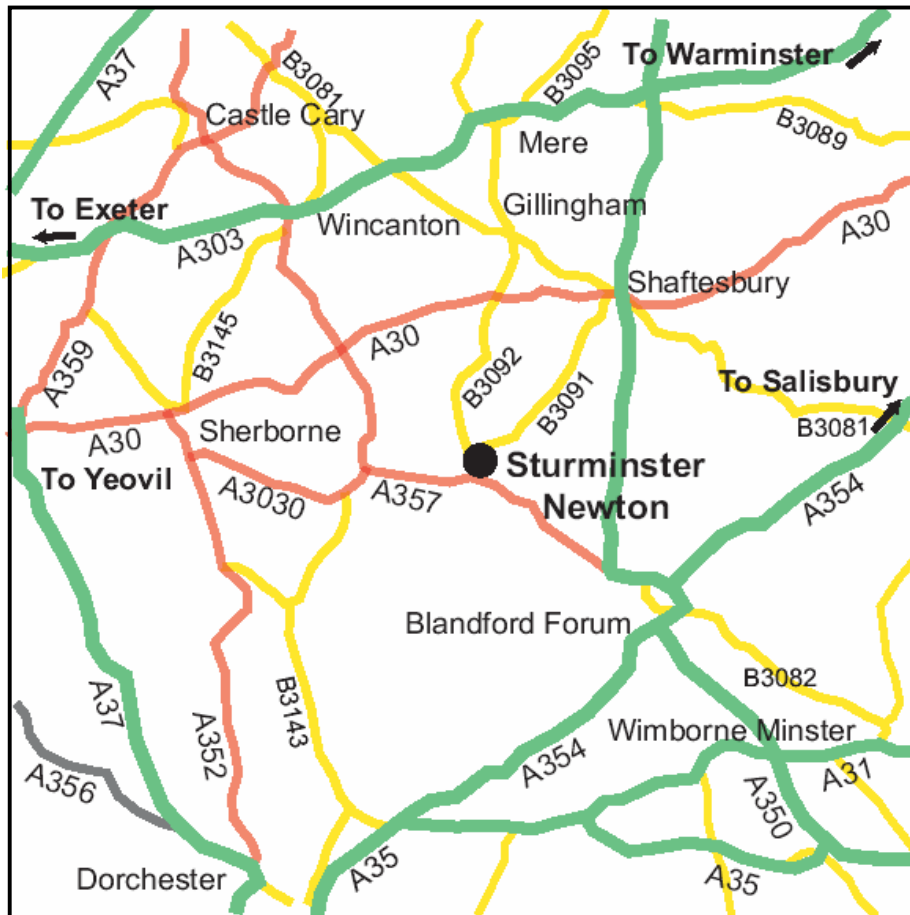
Project or issue to be addressed	Source	Term (short, medium long)	Lead Organisation & Partners	Funding achieved/ Potential funders	Action taken so far (date)	Comments/ problems	Progress, Achievements, Timescales
Investigate the viability of educational tourism in the area	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Medium	Countryside Centre NDDC			Research other examples	
Obtain funding for and promote development of a floodlit all-weather pitch	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Long	Sturminster Newton Town Council; NDDC High School	Likely to need Section 106 contributions		Potential to share sports pitches with High School	
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		

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				
Review the need for, and provide accordingly, children's play areas in the town and villages.	Sturminster Newton Area Action Plan	Short	Parish and Town Councils; Dorset Community Action	Awards for All		Community Development Worker to discuss with Play Area Advisor.	
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	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.	

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.	
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	If site can be found and secured, skatepark complete by Autumn 2005
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						

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.	
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		New Medical Centre planned for Sturminster Newton	Ensure villages have medical facilities or access. Promote the use of Nordcat for access to medical facilities	New Medical Centre completed by Autumn 2005
Develop statue project on old market site	Rotary	Short	Rotary Club; Arts Council; Sturminster Newton Town Council		Survey completed. Selection process in hand (Nov '04)		Statue completed Summer 2005

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
15 Market Place
Sturminster Newton
DT10 1AS
Tel: 01258 471456

Alternatively you can look at the website:

www.sturminster-site.net

APPENDIX
Other Projects in the Area

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
Child Okeford	Parish Plan 2004						
~ Policy of modest & steady growth							Parish Council considering programme to implement
~ Promote mixed development and job creation							As above
~ Support development of pre-school							As above
~ Village Hall and Community Centre consider community facilities							As above
~ Manage traffic							As above
~ Set up funding group							As above
Fifehead Neville							
Hazelbury Bryan	Parish Council						
~ New village hall		Short	Village Hall Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council	Village hall funding sources; Lottery; Liveability	Survey of requirements for a new hall carried out. Feasibility work on new hall initiated		
~ Extend playing field		Short	Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council		Land already in PC ownership		

Hammoon							
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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
Hinton St. Mary	Parish Council						
~ Footpath access to High School		Short	Hinton St Mary PC North Dorset Countryside Rangers Dorset County Council	Dorset County Council; Liveability	Initial discussions about route		
Ibberton							
Manston	Parish Council						
~ Footpath to village hall		Short	Manston Parish Council; N Dorset Countryside Rangers	Liveability	PC negotiating route		
Mappowder							
Marnhull	Parish Council						
~ Parish Plan		Short	Marnhull Parish Council		Parish Plan started		
Okeford Fitzpaine							
Pulham	Parish Meeting						
~ Secure use of field for play area		Short	Parish Meeting; Signpost; N Dorset District Council		Ongoing negotiations with Signpost		Resolve by Winter 2004
~ Bus shelter							
Stoke Wake							
Woolland							
Sturminster Newton Statue	Consultation by Rotary Club	Short	Sturminster Newton Rotary Club	Arts Council; NDDC; Sturminster Newton Town Council	Wide local consultation		Decision on design, artist, etc. Spring 2005

Credit Union development, North Dorset-wide	Public meeting 2003	Medium	Study group set up, some people from the Sturminster Newton area involved				
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
Childrens Centre Blackmore Vale area	Dorset County Council; Social Services	Short	Social Services	Childrens Centre Development Worker in post (Oct '04)			