

Sample Policies



Community

Stevington has a strong sense of community with many active and well-supported clubs and societies. The Village Hall Social Centre is an important community asset. The Community Shop, two churches, and one pub provide important social meeting venues. The 2011 census recorded 56% of the population were 50 or older (27% of the population over 65).

3. Sustaining a vibrant and socially inclusive community.

3.1 Proposals will be strongly resisted if they will result in the loss of an Asset of Community Value or in significant harm to an Asset of Community Value, the loss of any community services and facilities including rural public houses unless an appropriate alternative is provided or, evidence is presented that the facility is no longer required and suitable alternative uses have been considered.

Where the need is identified, new development must provide appropriate new facilities and infrastructure onsite and fund or directly deliver offsite facilities as required by the Parish Council. Development should be phased in tandem with the timely provision of infrastructure to help support sustainable growth.

3.2 Small scale development which can reasonably be considered to meet the needs of the rural economy, outdoor recreation, or to support the delivery of services for the local community will be supported. Proposals should be designed to provide open space, education, sport and leisure uses which:

- Are accessible to all;
- Safeguard and enhance the natural and historic environment;
- Protect priority species and enhance habitats and sites of special biodiversity interest.

3.3 The preservation of the countryside setting and existing woodland, and easy access to bridleway and footpath links into the countryside is important for community leisure activities. Any proposed development which may adversely impact on these will be resisted.

3.4 New development proposals must contribute towards the retention and development of a sustainable communities within Stevington. Opportunities to expand, enhance or maximise existing community uses will be supported (subject to other material considerations) and the shared use of community and educational facilities will generally be promoted.

