

# Comment Receipt

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**a) Our bit of the Cotswolds is undervalued. It's the "undiscovered" part. More should be made of the district's Cotswold character**

Agree

**b) The district's vibrant arts and creative scene is a unique asset. We should be using this to make the area a focus for creative industries**

Agree

**c) Stroud district's "green" eco-culture is really important to its distinctiveness. We need to make sure we don't rest on our laurels and should make this an important part of our local identity**

Agree

**d) Although Stroud is supposedly the district's principal town, it isn't really an important focus for me. I get everything I need from elsewhere**

Neutral

**e) People never see the nice bits of Stroud town and there's nothing to draw them in: the main roads all skirt around the centre, where there's nothing very characterful or attractive. This really needs to be put right**

Agree

**f) The canals corridor is going to be an important public 'face' for the whole district, and its essential that we get our image right here**

Disagree

**g) The image of our district is spoilt a bit by the impression that there are quite a lot of grotty run-down old industrial areas**

Neutral

**a) Create exciting new buildings and landmarks in the District's key town centres**

1: Very undesirable / to be discouraged

**b) Create eye catching developments / landmarks wherever people enter the District by road, rail, canal etc**

1: Very undesirable / to be discouraged

**c) Identify key sites where development of architecturally exciting buildings are given priority**

4: Very important / desirable

- d) Bring innovation and design excellence to local neighbourhoods** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- e) Protect and enhance high quality environments along the canals, estuary and countryside** 5: Essential
- f) Emphasis on traditional, locally distinctive design and local materials, rather than standard 'anywhere' design** 5: Essential
- g) Emphasis on contemporary, innovative, 'green' design, rather than standard 'anywhere' design** 5: Essential

In Q1a statement d - we feel it is not possible to get everything from Stroud. In Q1b statement c - Should concentrate on existing buildings

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- a) Protect and redevelop existing industrial areas to provide more office and small workshop based job opportunities** 5: Essential
- b) Promote greenfield land near the motorway junctions for industrial development** 1: Very undesirable / to be discouraged
- c) Promote land for an environmental technology park, to assist development of 'green' technologies** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- d) Promote use of employment land at Sharpness for transfer of freight between different forms of transport (principally non-road: water, rail etc)** 5: Essential
- f) Allocate land at all our main towns and larger villages for a wide range of employment uses** 4: Very important / desirable

Q2e - Support this but only on existing developments, no new developments please. No Developments at all on Greenfield sites please.

- a) Increase car parking charges to help pay for green transport initiatives** 1: Very undesirable / to be discouraged
- b) Give more road space to buses, cyclists and pedestrians** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- c) Create new multi-use paths, to encourage cycling and walking as a form of commuting (e.g. to school/work)** 5: Essential
- d) Support the re-opening of railway halts/stations** 5: Essential
- e) Promote car-share schemes and provide priority parking spaces for them at key locations (e.g. town centres and in new housing developments)** 4: Very important / desirable

Q3b - good idea on the A46.

- a) Introduce more homes into town centres** 5: Essential
- b) Accept that we can't compete with major retail centres like Cheltenham, Gloucester or Cribbs Causeway, and concentrate on improving our towns' basic local service provision** 4: Very important / desirable
- c) Nurture individuality, niche shopping and café culture, to create 'destination' towns** 5: Essential

- d) Make Stroud more competitive and attractive to local customers by encouraging a big non-food retail outlet to the town centre, such as a department store** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- e) Stimulate growth and competitiveness in both Stroud and Dursley, for example by identifying areas for new retail development** 2: Not important / undesirable
- f) Improve vehicular access and increase numbers of car-parking spaces within towns centres** 4: Very important / desirable
- g) Limit vehicular access and numbers of car-parking places along principal streets in town centres and create pedestrian-friendly multi-use public spaces** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- h) Limit numbers of non-retail uses (food/drink outlets, offices and estate agents etc) along principal shopping streets; Encourage more varied uses (commercial, leisure and residential) along secondary streets and above shop units** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- i) Capitalise on our town centres' character, tradition and high quality historic buildings, by improving the design of shopfronts and advertisements and investing in the public realm (ground surfaces, signage, street furniture, trees etc)** 5: Essential
- a) Make the most of our tourism assets by increasing quality and access to them** 4: Very important /desirable
- b) Extend the range of attractions and accommodation and make sure they are in accessible locations** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- c) Position Stroud District to lead at the forefront of sustainable-or "eco-tourism" (using the district's natural and heritage assets as a basis for tourism development that avoids damage to the environment, economy and culture of the location in which it takes place)** 4: Very important /desirable
- d) Focus on what we traditionally do best, which is arts and culture** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable

Q5b - Attractions should be in keeping with locality.

- a) Secure the provision of public art, public realm improvements (streets and public spaces) or cultural facilities through contributions from new development and support for local community initiatives** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- b) Encourage innovative, responsive, high quality design solutions, which acknowledge the district's heritage and character** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- c) Encourage greater public access and understanding of the artistic and cultural assets that contribute to the District's vitality and sense of place** 4: Very important / desirable
- d) Help facilitate business and facilities to accommodate green technologies and creative industries** 4: Very important / desirable

Q6d - On Brownfield sites only.

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- a) Focus new housing on greenfield extensions to the south of Gloucester 4: Very important / desirable
- b) Focus new housing within the Stroud Urban Area (Stonehouse - Brimscombe - Nailsworth) 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- c) Focus new housing at Cam/Dursley as a 'greenfield' urban extension 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- d) Spread new housing around the main towns - Stroud, Cam, Dursley, Stonehouse, Nailsworth, Wotton-under-Edge 4: Very important / desirable
- e) Disperse new housing around a number of our smaller settlements 1: Very undesirable / to be discouraged
- a) Protect facilities that house local services and community uses 4: Very important / desirable
- b) Promote better public transport between villages and larger towns/centres 4: Very important / desirable
- c) Identify land which would be used to bring more jobs into the villages 4: Very important / desirable
- e) Promote provision of new services and facilities within larger settlements, to serve wider rural areas 4: Very important / desirable

Q8d - Allow homes to be built in the villages only when identified in existing parish plans.

- a) Provide facilities for recreation and activity 4: Very important / desirable
- b) Provide meeting places focused on young people's needs 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- c) Provide facilities and premises to meet the training needs of young people 4: Very important / desirable
- d) Encourage provision of multi-use facilities in accessible locations 4: Very important / desirable
- a) Encourage accessible, flexibly designed "lifetime homes" throughout the district: homes that will adapt easily to occupiers' changing needs and circumstances, whatever their age 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- b) Increase planning policy flexibility about the creation of residential annexes for dependent relatives (so-called "granny flats") 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- c) Enable the provision of 'decent' and energy efficient homes for all elderly people 4: Very important / desirable
- d) Enable the provision of good public transport across the district 4: Very important / desirable
- e) Promote the provision of care facilities for those unable to look after themselves 5: Essential
- f) Provide public spaces and meeting areas with adequate rest facilities 4: Very important / desirable
- a) Do nothing other than maintain pitches and associated facilities 2: Not important / undesirable
- b) Improve standards of provision and quality of playing surfaces and maximise access for all sectors in the community 4: Very important / desirable

<b>c) Promote non-traditional facilities, such as skateboard parks, outdoor climbing walls or mountain biking routes</b>	4: Very important / desirable
<b>d) Broaden access and encourage multi-use of existing facilities (schools/community)</b>	4: Very important / desirable
<b>e) Promote professional or supervised training for different sports uses, to facilitate use and broaden access for all</b>	3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
<b>a) Group services together, to make them more accessible and effective (e.g. grouping health and other community services)</b>	3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
<b>b) Target provision to the most deprived neighbourhoods within rural and urban areas</b>	4: Very important / desirable
<b>c) Identify and build on the strengths of established facilities within local communities</b>	4: Very important / desirable
<b>d) Ensure that community infrastructure and facilities are suitable for multiple-uses, giving opportunities for everyone (young, old, affluent or low income) to access and enjoy them</b>	4: Very important / desirable
<b>e) Involve communities so that they have a sense of 'ownership' for projects and developments, and encourage and support community initiatives</b>	5: Essential
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<b>a) Resist development at internationally and nationally designated sites</b>	5: Essential
<b>b) Resist development at locally important sites</b>	5: Essential
<b>c) Improve accessibility to less popular sites and provide signage and interpretation material to promote better understanding of the assets</b>	3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
<b>d) Seek contributions towards landscape and wildlife habitat enhancement from relevant developments</b>	5: Essential
<b>a) Enable vacant or under-used historic buildings to be brought back into use by allowing their creative and architecturally interesting adaptation and/or "enabling development" (development located around the key historic building, which can help to raise the money needed for restoration)</b>	4: Very important / desirable
<b>b) Use Council powers to buy, repair and sell-on historic buildings at highest risk of damage and decay</b>	4: Very important / desirable
<b>c) Designate more Conservation Areas and extend current conservation area boundaries where necessary</b>	4: Very important / desirable
<b>d) Produce Conservation Area Character Statements to aid protection for these areas by improving understanding of their character and special architectural / historic features</b>	5: Essential
<b>e) Increase planning controls over householder alterations in conservation areas, to ensure that things like porches, extensions and window replacements are done sensitively</b>	5: Essential
<b>a) Maximise the contribution to renewable and low-carbon energy generation through inclusion of on-site and near-site technologies</b>	4: Very important / desirable

where new development happens (e.g. wind, solar, combined heat and power, energy from waste)

- b) Allocate land for specific renewable energy generation installations** 4: Very important / desirable
- c) Encourage the harnessing of hydro power through the adaptation of some of the district's rivers and streams** 4: Very important / desirable
- d) Support the harnessing of tidal power in the Severn Estuary, if an option that minimises harmful habitat impacts can be developed** 2: Not important / undesirable

Q15d - Only allow tidal flow not tidal barrage please.

- a) Include neighbourhood recycling and composting facilities as part of all major housing and mixed-use development schemes** 5: Essential
- b) Enhance the design and capacity of existing neighbourhood recycling facilities** 5: Essential
- c) Provide land for developing waste reclamation, recycling and energy-from-waste industries** 4: Very important / desirable
- d) Adapt and re-use buildings and design flexible, adaptable, well-built new buildings, so that we are not left with a legacy of having to demolish and rebuild them** 5: Essential
- e) Encourage the re-use of building materials on site (either incorporated into buildings/structures or as hardcore)** 5: Essential
- a) Catalyst for new employment provision in a distinctive and high quality environment** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- b) Opportunity for new housing provision in a distinctive and high quality environment** 2: Not important / undesirable
- c) Opportunity to improve accessibility through the Stroud Valleys for non-car traffic** 4: Very important / desirable
- d) Provide new leisure, recreation and tourism opportunities** 4: Very important / desirable
- e) Opportunity to enhance natural habitats and bolster wildlife corridors** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- f) Complement the high quality natural and built environment by insisting on high quality design for all new development** 5: Essential
- g) Ensure that regeneration is focussed on sensitive re-use and integration of historic buildings** 5: Essential
- a) Improve flood defences to reduce risk to highly vulnerable property, where economically viable** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- b) Adapt existing property, to minimise impacts of flood damage** 4: Very important / desirable
- c) Create floodwater storage areas, where water is able to accumulate and drain away during floods, to minimise the risk of flooding in more built-up areas** 5: Essential
- d) Ensure integrated drainage and sustainable urban drainage systems are implemented in new developments, wherever possible** 5: Essential

- e) Ensure that land at risk of flooding is only developed if buildings and spaces can be designed to minimise impacts of flood damage and maximise potential floodwater storage areas** 5: Essential
- a) Improve accessibility of facilities and improve the quality of the features in our open spaces** 4: Very important / desirable
- b) In areas of high provision, retain and maintain all current provision** 5: Essential
- c) In areas of low provision, improve provision by re-cycling emerging 'brownfield' sites** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- d) In areas of low provision, increase provision gradually as sites naturally come forward for redevelopment, using planning powers where appropriate** 4: Very important / desirable
- e) Manage our open space more effectively to meet a range of demands – such as exercise, biodiversity, “space to breathe”, enhancing character and appearance of places** 3: Neither desirable nor undesirable
- f) Assess how open space is used, by whom, why, and how frequently. Target any resources to well-used or over-used areas, to enhance capacity and opportunities for use** 4: Very important / desirable
- 1. Improving the image of the District and its towns** . These are my bottom 5
- 2. Providing for job opportunities across the District** . These are my top 5
- 3. Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO2 emissions** . These are my top 5
- 4. Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres** . These are my top 5
- 5. Developing the tourism potential of the District** . These are my bottom 5
- 6. Supporting and capitalising on the District's artistic and cultural assets** . These are my bottom 5
- 7. Meeting the District's identified future housing needs** . These are my bottom 5
- 8. Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages** . These are my top 5
- 9. Improving the provision of facilities for young people**
- 10. Meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population**
- 11. Meeting the District's needs for sports facilities**
- 12. Achieving social inclusion and active communities, where community initiatives are the norm**
- 13. Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity** . These are my top 5
- 14. Protecting and enhancing our historic environment**
- 15. Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District**
- 16. Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling**
- 17. Ensuring that the Cotswold Canals restoration plays a positive role in the District's future** . These are my bottom 5

## **18. Providing resilience to flood risk**

## **19. Meeting the District's need for green and open space**

As we understand it the Core Strategy encapsulates the aspirations and vision that the District Council has for the district and the broad actions that will be promoted to achieve this. As it is a Strategy document it should be written by the elected members and debated by the council. This way it can contain real vision. What appears to be happening is that the Strategy is being distilled from a number of sources by the Planning Department who are attempting to produce a consensus document. A document produced by this process will inevitably be bland and lack clear direction and not give the required leadership that should be in a Strategy document.

Whiteshill & Ruscombe Parish  
Council

Stroud Valleys