

Sustainable Stonesfield

OUR VILLAGE ~ NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

Sustainable Stonesfield works to ensure that Stonesfield develops in a way that meets the needs and aspirations of the people who currently live here, and those of future generations, while protecting the beauty of the village and its surroundings and stimulating efforts to lead environmentally sustainable lives.

Housing

We recognise the responsibility that living within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) places on us. We have argued that West Oxfordshire District Council should place a greater emphasis on the AONB when developing their revised Local Plan. That appears to have been successful and our role now is to ensure that the disciplines within the Local Plan are maintained.

Our concerns are that the services and infrastructure of our village are already under pressure and not capable of supporting significantly more houses in a sustainable way. We see considerable threats to our village from a national drive to build more houses without that ambition being related to local need, and with a disregard for the knock on effects on our roads, water supplies, schools and services.

SUSTO provides a constant stream of information relating to planning applications via The Slate, Mailchimp, this web site and Nextdoor Stonesfield. We help residents who are concerned about specific proposals to lodge their views with the District Council. We hold public meetings to share information and provide opportunities for people's views to be expressed so that we can shape our work accordingly. In 2019, we won a notable victory over CALA Homes, by persuading the court to refuse them permission to develop land on the north side of the Woodstock Road.

We work with local pressure groups to promote and protect the interests of our sub-area within the AONB. We also have good links with countywide organisations so that we are able to understand and influence the bigger strategic picture.

Environment

Our Climate Emergency Group meets once a month, providing an opportunity for people to share ideas on how to reduce their carbon footprint. We are working through a list of topics (household shopping, plastics, tree planting, clothing, work environments, switching fuel / suppliers etc), encouraging individual households to adopt best practices, and setting up community projects where appropriate.

Joining

If you would like to join SUSTO and help protect our village, please use the signup form at: <http://eepurl.com/cJI4bj> to have your e-mail details added to our mailing lists. There are no membership fees and funds are raised only when we need to take specific action.