

## **SOUTH STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Public Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

**Chair:** Mr. M. Devenish - Chairman South Stoke Parish Council  
**Speakers:** Caroline Kay - Chief Executive Officer Bath Preservation Trust  
Mr. R. Hellard - Vice Chairman South Stoke Parish Council  
Mr. Neil Butters - B&NES Councillor, Planning and Planning Transport  
& Development

**Present at the meeting** Mr. G. Davis – Clerk  
**45 Members of the Public, 43 of whom are electors in the Parish**

Presentations were given by each of the speakers and questions raised from the floor. In response the meeting carried the following resolutions unanimously.

#### **In response to the National Planning Policy Framework:-**

The Parishioners of South Stoke welcome the proposal to simplify the planning system but are extremely concerned that the Draft National Planning Policy Framework is currently unworkable.

We therefore ask that:

- i) The notion of sustainable development be clearly defined to allow an equal balance between the needs of the economy, society and the environment.
- ii) The requirement for allocation of an additional 20% on top of defined housing need be removed. This would be impossible to deliver in BANES.
- iii) The “Default Yes” be removed or its introduction delayed by 18 months to allow Local Authorities to finalise and adopt their new Core Strategies and for the development of Neighbourhood Plans. Otherwise we predict a period of total anarchy in the planning system.
- iv) The relationship between the Localism Bill and the NPPF be clarified.

#### **In response to the Changes to the Draft Core Strategy:-**

The residents of South Stoke are concerned to note apparent inconsistencies in the officers’ reports to the B&NES Council meeting held on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.

We re-assert that there should be no consideration now, in the future, of a possible urban extension on the South Stoke plateau. The land within the Parish Boundary is entirely within the Green Belt, it is designated as part of the Cotswold AONB and lies immediately adjacent to the Wansdyke which is a scheduled ancient monument. It is also entirely within the all important setting of the World Heritage City of Bath.

We ask that these inconsistencies be corrected and that the clarified report becomes a matter of record for the future.

The Parish Council affirmed that it would take these resolutions forward by responding to both the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework and the Draft Core Strategy Changes, and that it would meet with officers’ of Bath and North East Somerset council to achieve the necessary corrections and clarifications to the reports.

The Parish Council urged all present at the meeting to respond to both of these consultations.

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