

From: [Gillian Orchard Parish Clerk](#)
To: [Strategy](#)
Subject: Stogursey Parish Council
Date: 04 March 2020 16:46:30

Please see Stogursey Parish Council response attached.

Regards



Gillian Orchard
CLERK TO STOGURSEY PARISH COUNCIL (Part-time)

Please note: I work 14 hours a week in this role so an immediate response is not always possible



STOGURSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Strategy

Somerset West and Taunton Council

3 March 2020

Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWTC) Local Plan Review 2040 Issues and Options Document Consultation

Stogursey Parish Council (SPC) wish to comment on the aspects of the SWTC Local Plan Review 2040 Issues and Options Document which directly reference Stogursey parish or impact upon it.

Topic Paper 1 – Brief Assessment of Settlement Strategy Options.

Critical Issues - Visions and Objectives

Page 11. Objective 4. *'To achieve a major change in travel behaviour towards walking, cycling and public transport and to reduce the need to travel.'*

Although this, in principle, is a very laudable aim, it is totally impractical in a rural area such as Stogursey Parish, and would pose a major challenge.

Stogursey Parish has had no commercial bus service since 2014 and are currently only served by the free HPC Community shopper's bus, on a very limited basis, which will end at the end of the HPC construction.

The nearest employment and commercial centres are located either 10 miles away at Bridgwater, 9 miles at Williton, or 16 miles away at Taunton. This community is totally dependent on car travel for employment purposes, plus any form travel at weekends and holidays when the Community bus does not operate. Furthermore, due to the distances involved to access employment and commercial centres for shopping etc., it is totally unrealistic to envisage increase in cycling or walking to access these.

It should also be borne in mind that this area of Western Somerset has a very elderly population so the aim of cycling or walking for many of these is also unrealistic.

5.2 Sustainable locations

5.2.1 The Settlement Tiers

Option 2a. Stogursey PC would agree to Stogursey Parish being identified as a Tier 5 Minor Rural Centre.

5.2.2 The Distribution of Housing

Option 2c. Stogursey PC would support the way housing is currently distributed throughout the area

5.2.2 Site Selection

Option 2b .4. *'Support for small sites that are in line with the settlement strategy and the encouragement for Neighbourhood plans to allocate small sites'* – SPC would support this policy approach.

5.3 .2. Providing pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People.

Option 3 b iii *'Allocate sites specifically for pitches.'* SPC would support this policy

5.8 Thriving coastal and rural communities

Objective 8 – to boost tourism, economic development, agricultural transformation and deliver more affordable homes in our rural and coastal communities

5.8.1 Managing Development in rural settlements.

Option 8a: Managing development in rural settlements

Additional policy approaches to support Objective 8

8b/ 8. *'Ensure that the HPC nuclear power station proposals mitigate short and long term adverse cultural, economic, environmental and social impact and provides a net gain of bio diversity in the area.'*

As host community to the Hinkley Point C project, SPC would support this additional policy.

Kind Regards



Gillian Orchard
Clerk to Parish Council