

Village/Community Facilities and Projects

1) What is the Policy seeking to achieve?

To ensure that Stoke Gabriel continues to be an active and safe environment by retaining or improving existing facilities and encouraging new facilities to meet community needs and to encourage a healthy lifestyle across all generations.

2) What is the evidence behind the Policy?

Stoke Gabriel benefits from a significant number of community facilities and organisations. There is a well-used centrally located village hall and also 'the Old School Room' which is the home to Pre-school during the day and available for hire evenings and weekends. Sports clubs include football (hosting 8 teams), cricket (2 teams) and boating all with excellent facilities. Organisations include the Scout troop (with Hall), Women's Institute, Mothers Union, Art Group, Horticultural Society, Parish Plan Group, Keep Fit, Yoga, Zumba, Junior Karate, Whist, Bridge, Short Mat Bowling, Bell-ringers, Village Voices and Cycle Path Group.

The Primary School benefits from its own playing field while the Pre-School utilises the play area in the Village Orchard.

There are two places of worship, the Anglican Church of St Mary and St Gabriel and the Baptist Church. The former also hosts a series of Community Concerts in the winter months.

Commercially the village has 2 pubs, 2 restaurants and a Village Store/Post Office. There is strong support for these to remain.

3) What does the Community say?

The Neighbourhood Plan survey included the question:

'How important to you, individually or as a family are the following village facilities? (5 Most Important, 1 least important)'

The response summary was as follows:

How important to you, individually or as a family, are the following village facilities (5 very, 1 least)

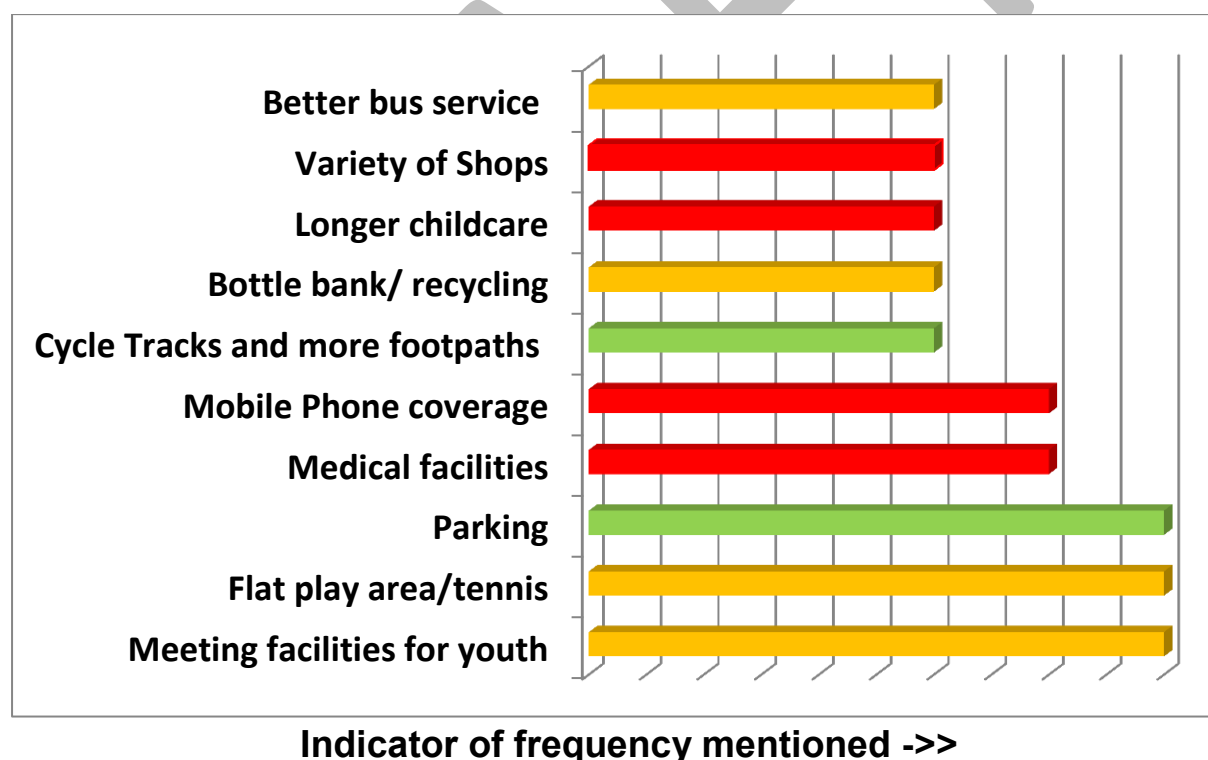
	Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
	Post Office	5	6	40	75	212	4.43	338
	Shops	6	3	36	93	198	4.41	336
	Village Hall	7	12	52	95	170	4.22	336
	Pubs and restaurants	6	14	55	91	169	4.20	335
	Community Orchard	18	6	60	88	150	4.07	322
	Hoyle Copse	21	13	70	70	140	3.94	314
	Church	25	37	50	62	154	3.86	328
	Old Schoolroom	31	27	82	62	110	3.62	312
	Community Orchard Play Park	55	17	58	56	119	3.55	305
	Stoke Gabriel Boating Association	61	39	58	57	91	3.25	306
	Scout Hall	65	22	74	62	80	3.23	303
	Other community play areas	57	29	73	49	78	3.22	286
	Sports pitches	71	35	66	70	60	3.04	302
	Primary School	114	11	30	32	109	3.04	296
	Parent & toddler group	118	7	31	34	103	2.99	293
	Pre-school	118	14	29	37	98	2.94	296
	Cricket club	75	35	79	70	47	2.93	306
	Football club	75	38	76	65	49	2.92	303
	Allotments	87	31	73	44	58	2.85	293
	Baptist Chapel	119	50	45	32	48	2.46	294

Since the survey the Post Office business has closed and has been accommodated within the village stores. The Village Hall continues to host many varying functions in a central location as does the 'Old Schoolroom' as well as being home to the Pre-School. The Primary School and mother and toddler Group thrive. All sports facilities have benefitted from grants including section 106 money and the

organisations continue to prosper. Supply of allotments still falls short of demand with a waiting list for the one available privately owned site dedicated to these. The congregations of the Baptist Chapel are relatively small which are reflected in the score compared to the 'Church' which is also an iconic building.

Participants were also asked if there were any additional community amenity or recreational facilities which they felt were of particular importance. They identified the local garage/service station as an important service, and the public toilets and visits from the mobile library as important public services. Local walks and natural areas were important (the Mill Pool, Churchyard, and woodland).

In response to the question '*Which facilities do you feel are missing or inadequate in the parish? Where do you go to access these facilities??*' the response summary of the key items was:



Many of these responses echo similar findings from the 2008 Parish Plan. The status of these key items is as follows:

- The play area/ tennis requirement may be addressed with an ongoing project at the Primary School to install a MUGA (Multi Use Games Facility) for community as well as school use.

- Mobile phone coverage for Vodafone & O2 users has improved with a new mast but coverage from other providers is poor.
- The bus service has improved slightly with twice a week runs to Totnes in addition to the daily (except Sunday) service to Paignton, however the timing and frequency does not support transport to and from employment.
- Although the village is without a bottle bank/recycling facility planned improvements to kerbside recycling by South Hams District Council should alleviate this situation.
- The cycle path group is working on developing a cycle friendly route to Totnes. Public footpaths are fairly limited necessitating using country lanes for longer walks.
- Parking, particularly in summer months and at School Run times, is a major issue.
- Meeting facilities for the teenagers/ youth of the village is a long term deficiency which needs resolution.
- There are no Medical Facilities within the Parish. Paignton & Totnes being the closest.
- There are 2 shops.
 - The Village Stores/Post Office/ Newsagent which is vital to the Community despite the relative proximity of large supermarkets . There is a strong case to make this an 'asset of community value'. and
 - The River Dart Gallery specialising in Photography, Artwork, framing and Gifts
- Childcare is still limited to School hours.

Policy ??? - Community Facilities

- In order to maintain the sustainability of the community, sports, leisure and retail facilities must be retained unless they are replaced by facilities which provide the same or improved benefit to the community. These benefits to include setting, accessibility, appearance and general quality of the facility. The table below details the facilities to be protected by this plan.

Community Facility	
Stoke Gabriel Village Stores	The Old Schoolroom
The Church House Inn	The River Shack
The Village Hall	Hoyle Copse
Stoke Gabriel Boating Association Clubhouse, facilities and foreshore	Stoke Gabriel Cricket Club and Facilities
The Castle Inn	Stoke Gabriel Scout Hall and field
Emma's Restaurant	Primary School and facilities
The Community Orchard and Play Area	Community Play Areas across the Village/Parish
The River Dart Gallery	Allotments
The Church of St Mary and St Gabriel and Churchyard	Stoke Gabriel Football Club and facilities
Baptist Church	Public Toilets

- Development of additional community facilities and infrastructure or improvement of existing facilities that will demonstrably support the vibrancy and vitality of the parish will be supported providing it complies with national and local strategic policies and the other policies of this plan.
- Improvements to the public toilets will be supported particularly with respect to disabled access.

**RELEVANT HIGHER LEVEL POLICIES AND
MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS to be added**