

People & Place Plan



PEOPLE & PLACE PLAN

Stonham Aspal Parish Council

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1. Introduction

This work was inspired by the previous Government's commitments (2023) to trial a different approach to "lighter touch" neighbourhood planning. Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) were one of three Councils tasked with testing this approach. The new arrangements are present in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act and this allows:

- groups to prepare a Neighbour Priority Statement (NPS), which summarises the community's priorities and preferences in relation to "local matters". We believe local matters don't have to relate to just planning use - indeed our preferences contain a broad range of issues from protecting the environmental, addressing deficits in community assets, tackling social isolation, improving local infrastructure, improving patchy public transport, improving broadband speeds, etc
- require groups to publicise their draft NPS
- requires MSDC to publish the neighbourhood priorities statement where relevant statutory requirements have been met
- sets out that an NPS comes into force when it is published by the local planning authority

There is some confusion as to whether the necessary legal mechanisms to enact the above will happen, our hope is that by setting our plan in the context of the possibility - it should be considered. If so, we might well be the first Parish Council in the Country to have complied with this new duty.

2. Overview

Stonham Aspal is a rural Parish, with a population of 590 as recorded in the 2021 Census, (down from 601 in the 2011 census), in 250 households. The relatively rectangular parish is set in the heart of Mid Suffolk District. The Parish is bounded by eight other Parishes: Mickfield, Debenham, Winston, Pettaugh, Crowfield, Creeting St. Mary, Earl Stonham and Stonham Parva (aka Little Stonham).

The greater part of the Parish is linear along the main A1120, where it passes from Pettaugh in the East through Stonham Aspal to the crossroads of the A1120 and the A140 in the West. The Parish also includes the Hamlet of Mill Green.

NOTE: All maps and data in this document are correct as at the publish date (See final page for publication data).

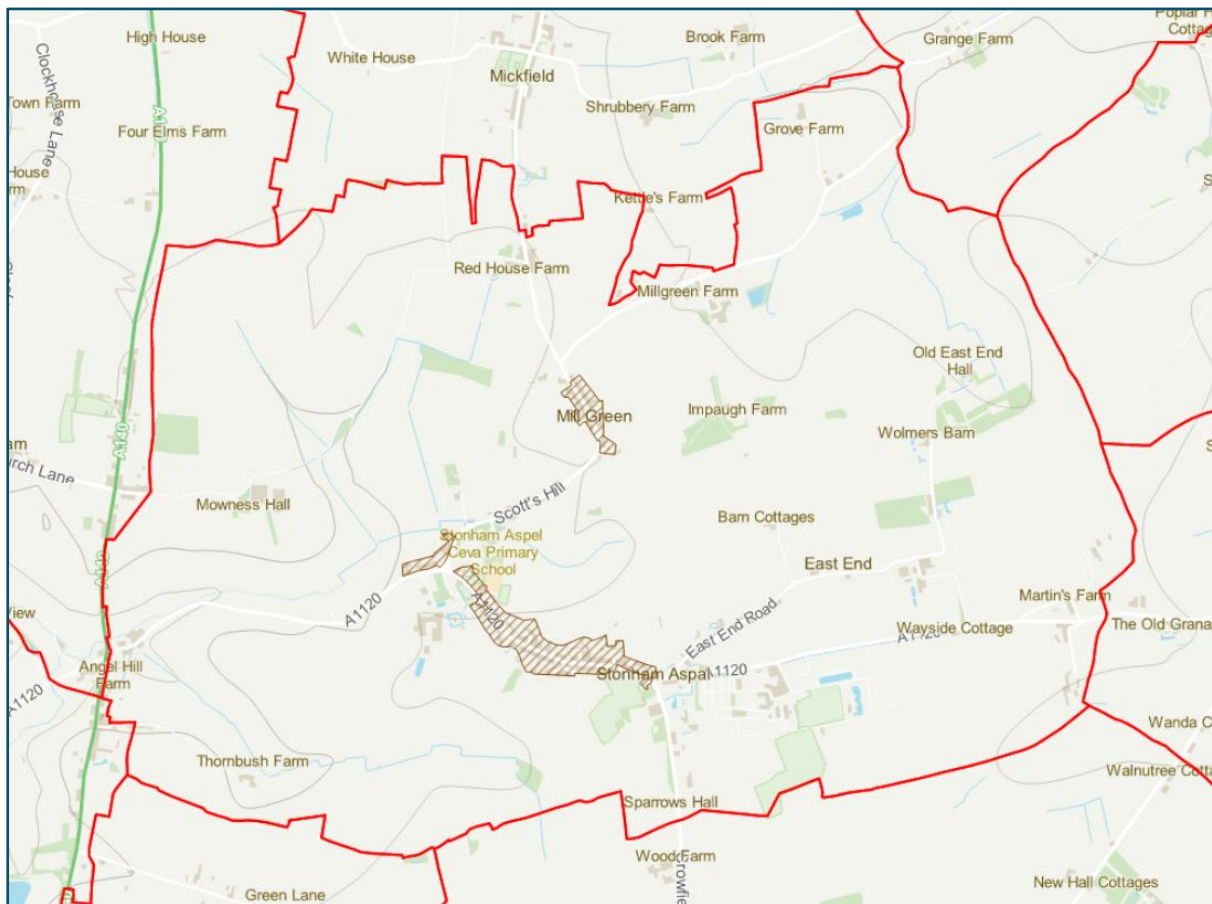


Figure 1 - The Parish of Stonham Aspal, showing the Settlement Boundaries

Settlement Boundaries are a commonly used planning 'tool' which define the extent of the built area of settlements and the countryside. Alternative names for settlement boundaries include 'development boundaries', 'development envelopes', 'settlement limits', 'village envelopes',

The Settlement Boundary for Stonham Aspal follows the line of the A1120 from Crowfield Road at the eastern edge and extends just beyond the junction with Scotts Hill to where the 30mph sign is on entry to the Parish from the West. The Settlement Boundary for Mill Green is a cluster of about 30 houses on the road from Stonham Aspal towards Mickfield and Debenham, via Scotts Hill. More details on the physical composition of the Parish is given in Section 5.

Stonham Aspal is in the Stonham Ward of Mid Suffolk District Council, the Thredling Division of Suffolk County Council and the Parliamentary Constituency of Central Suffolk & North Ipswich.

Contact details of the current Parish & District Councillors and our MP are on the Parish Council website. <https://stonhamaspal.onesuffolk.net/councillors/>

The Parish Council carried out a survey of residents in 2021 and again in 2024 which has informed this document. Details of the 2024 survey and results can be found on the

website at <https://stonhamaspal.onesuffolk.net/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/community-infrastructure-levy-working-party/>

3. Parish Boundary vs Settlement Boundary

A Parish Boundary defines the administrative area of a Local Government entity, whilst a Settlement Boundary focuses on managing the urban development and land use.

In this Plan, the Parish of Stonham Aspal includes the Village of Stonham Aspal and the Hamlet of Mill Green.

3.1. Parish Boundary

A Parish boundary is an administrative boundary that defines the geographical extent of a civil parish, which is the lowest tier of local government in England.

It determines the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Parish Council, including community services, events, and local decision-making.

Parish boundaries are important for administrative purposes, such as elections, council tax collection, and the provision of local services and amenities.

3.1. Settlement Boundary

A Settlement Boundary is a delineation that separates the built-up areas from the surrounding rural or undeveloped land.

It helps manage and control urban development, guiding where new housing and commercial development can take place, and preserving open spaces and countryside.

Our Local Planning Authority (Mid Suffolk District Council) uses Settlement Boundaries to regulate land use, protect the environment, and ensure sustainable development.

4. Character of the Area

The area around Stonham Aspal is rural and principally given over to arable farming. The landscape is relatively flat and generally open with a few small patches of woodland, and no significant water courses other than farm ditches.

The general impression outside the Parish is of wide views with occasional clusters of trees and buildings in the distance.

There are limited employment opportunities in the Parish and surrounding area and most people who are in employment commute outside the Parish.

Facilities within the Parish consist of:

- [Primary School](#), (run by the County Council)
- [Church](#) (run by the Parochial Church Council)
- [Village Hall](#) (including Tennis Court) run by the Village Hall Charity
- [Recreation Ground](#) run by the Parish Council
- The Ten Bells Pub – Grade 2 listing. Recently sold to a private buyer with a view to re-instatement as a Pub. Currently closed, and being refurbished.
- Stonham Barns

The main settlement area has grown along the busy A1120 with historical and more recent development either side of the original core, which contains numerous listed buildings (shown in green in Figure 6 - Stonham Aspal Settlement Boundary and Figure 7 - Mill Green Settlement Boundary). The area around the Parish also contains many old and listed properties – generally associated with agricultural activity.

There has been considerable new development in recent years, which is ongoing, with a major development ([Homestead Park](#)) of 46 homes in progress. MSDC's newly adopted Joint Local Plan indicates that future housing development in this area should be restricted to infill and be small scale in nature.

Stonham Barns is situated to the east of the Parish. This is a tourism centre offering a range of facilities for visitors, a showground for events, and a large number of lodges approved for holiday use. The Census data for 2021 indicates that 6.5% of the population of Stonham Aspal refer to this site as their permanent residence.

5. Special Considerations

Limited employment opportunities in the immediately surrounding area limit the need and opportunity for future housing development. A speculative development of 10 “executive” style homes was completed in 2024 (The Lawns), but none of these properties has sold (as at end 2024).

However, as in many other areas, there is a need for affordable housing. The development of [Homestead Park](#), currently underway in the Parish is unusual in this area in that it contains a quantity of affordable and smaller houses.

The new Joint Local Plan recognises the rural nature of this area and, if applied diligently by planners, will do much to protect the environment and setting.

Ever increasing traffic on the A1120 is a concern for many residents, especially with the narrowness of the road and narrow and incomplete footways through the Parish. Whilst it is recognised that this is a [Designated Distributor Route](#) and Tourist Route within the county, traffic levels and safety remain a major concern for residents. The Parish Council has used its resources and other support to provide various road safety and traffic calming measures. Further support from Suffolk Highways to mitigate the effects of development along the A1120 and the Sizewell Project will be welcomed.

The A1120 / A140 crossroads is considered by many to be a major problem area.

6. Environment

The DEFRA Agricultural Land Classification Scheme grades the land in Stonham Aspal Parish as Grade 2 (Very Good) shaded blue; to Grade 3 (Moderate) quality, shaded green. The agricultural land is mainly given over to arable crops; grains, beans, beet, rape etc, with other land used for grazing.

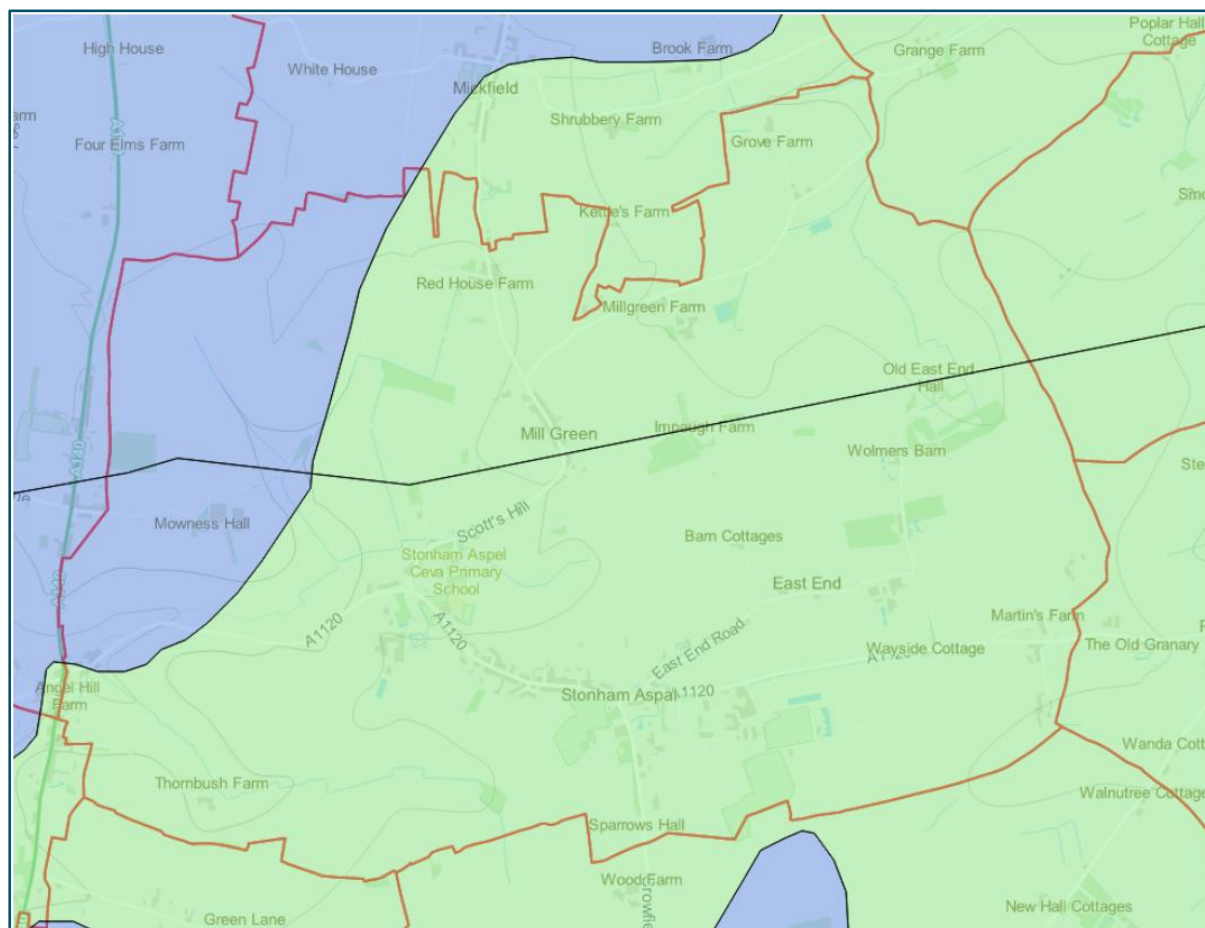


Figure 2 - Outline of the Parish showing the Agricultural Grade of Land (Blue=Grade2, Green=Grade3)

Local farmers are actively engaging with the Government's environmental policies and sustainable farming incentives, and so there have been many areas devoted to environmental field margins, seasonal cover crops etc which encourage biodiversity.

There are some woodland areas in the parish although, whilst numerous, these are not extensive. One public footpath passes through one of the small areas of woodland at the end of East End Lane.

Plentiful small bodies of water exist as farm ponds and moats in the area and these provide useful habitats for wildlife. There are no major rivers in the parish, but a large network of farm ditches provides drainage.

6.1. Wildlife

The Parish contains no officially designated Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Conservation Areas. However, much of the parish lies in an Amber Risk Zone for the Great Crested Newt. This designation means it contains main population centres for Great Crested Newts and provides important connecting habitats that aid natural dispersal. This should be factored into planning approval for any new developments in these zones, and a number of recent developments have had to take this into account.

In summer, the Stonham Aspal area is known to be one of the few remaining refuges for the critically endangered Turtle Dove.



Figure 3 - Turtle Doves

Bats have been spotted in the Churchyard and the Church of St. Mary & St. Lambert and throughout the whole of the Parish.

Our local Farmer's are very environmentally-conscious and many acres are given over to wild flowers and bio-diverse margins. The [Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#) contains more details on how Planning helps shape and protect our most precious wildlife.

6.2. Flooding

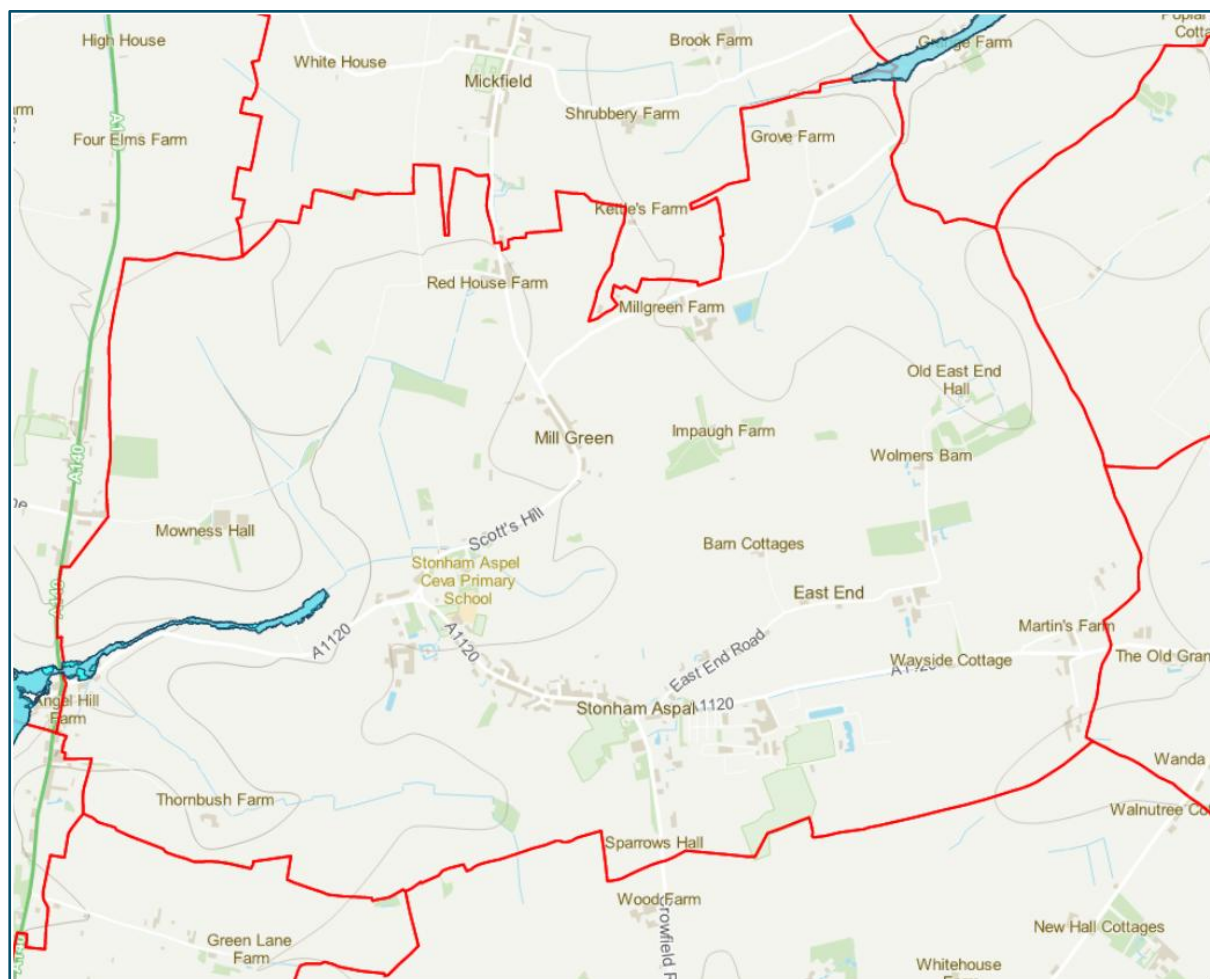


Figure 4 - Parish showing the Flood Zones

The Environment Agency identifies a small tract of land at the South Western end of the Parish by the A140 as having Flood Zone 2 and 3 classifications. Whilst in the North Eastern corner of the Parish, the road from Mill Green heading towards Debenham regularly floods.

The area at the bottom of Scott's Hill between the A1120 and Mill Green is known to flood regularly due to field runoff and inadequate road drainage. This is a long-established problem caused by inadequate drain maintenance.

Additional hard surfaces from development need to be considered because of the clay soils in this area and substantial intervention ponds or drainage schemes may well be necessary for new, and perhaps, with climate change, for existing, situations.

More recently, during Storm Babet in October 2023, the main A1120 and Brambly Hedge cottage near Stonham Barns was flooded, caused by rain runoff from the nearby saturated fields.

The nearby town of Debenham was severely affected by the storm and investigation by Suffolk County Council can be found here <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/2024-07-31-debenham-flood-investigation-report-final.pdf>

The Natural Flood Management Scheme at Mill Green Farm is shown as the furthestmost (nominally) rectangular field top left in the Map above and is shown whilst under construction below.



Figure 5- Aerial Survey of the Natural Flood Management Scheme at Mill Green Farm

Image courtesy of RAA Ltd. Further details are available here <https://www.raaltd.co.uk/portfolios/natural-flood-management-aerial-survey/>

This pond is to help mitigate against flooding in Debenham.

7. Historic Environment

Settlement at Stonham Aspal dates back to the Roman period and it is mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book. Formerly known as Stonham Antegan.

Stonham Aspal does not have a Conservation Area, although it has 46 Listed Buildings. Of these:

Grade I

- St. Mary & St. Lambert Church (aka Church Of The Blessed Virgin Mary)

Grade II*

- East End Manor

The other 44 buildings are all Grade II and the full list can be seen here

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/stonham-aspal-mid-suffolk-suffolk> .

A Late Roman bathhouse is known to have existed at the western end of the Parish, with Roman building materials incorporated into the 13th C Church of St Mary & St Lambert. Recent archaeological work has found evidence of Late Iron Age and Early Roman (50BC) round houses at the eastern end of the Parish. This suggests a long history of settlement in the area. (https://stonhamaspal.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Volume-XXX-Part-3-1966_A-Roman-British-bath-house-at-Stonham-Aspal-N-Smedley-E-J-Owles_220-to-234.pdf)

A local Genealogy site provides more information on the residents and buildings of Stonham Aspal <https://debenham-ops.org.uk/index.htm>

The Census statistics over the years show the population has not changed significantly in the previous two hundred years, although the ratio of people to houses has halved.

Year	Population Of Stonham Aspal	Housing	Land Mass
1801	578		
1811	619		
1821	633		
1831	612	126	2450 Acres
1841	772	162	
1851	814	175	2399 Acres
1861	694	159	
1871	701	169	
1881	725	165	2399 Acres
1891	720	155	2474 Acres
1901	647	151	2474 Acres
1911	591	141	2474 Acres
1921	530	136	2474 Acres
1931	519	139	2474 Acres

1941	Census Not Taken	Due to WW2	
1951	491	150	2474 Acres
1961	418	158	2474 Acres
1971	436		
1981			
1991			
2001	542	212	997 Hectares
2011	601	233	997.28 Hectares
2021	590		9.970 km2

Unfortunately, not all Census Data, is available at the Parish level. Trying to average out the data from the Ward or District level is not helpful in this context.

8. Infrastructure

Stonham Aspal is described as a Hinterland Village and Mill Green as a Hamlet in Part 1 of the adopted Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP).

Link to Stonham Aspal Settlement Map in the Joint Local Plan for Mid Suffolk

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/jlp-settlement-maps-master-doc-part-1-sep-24>

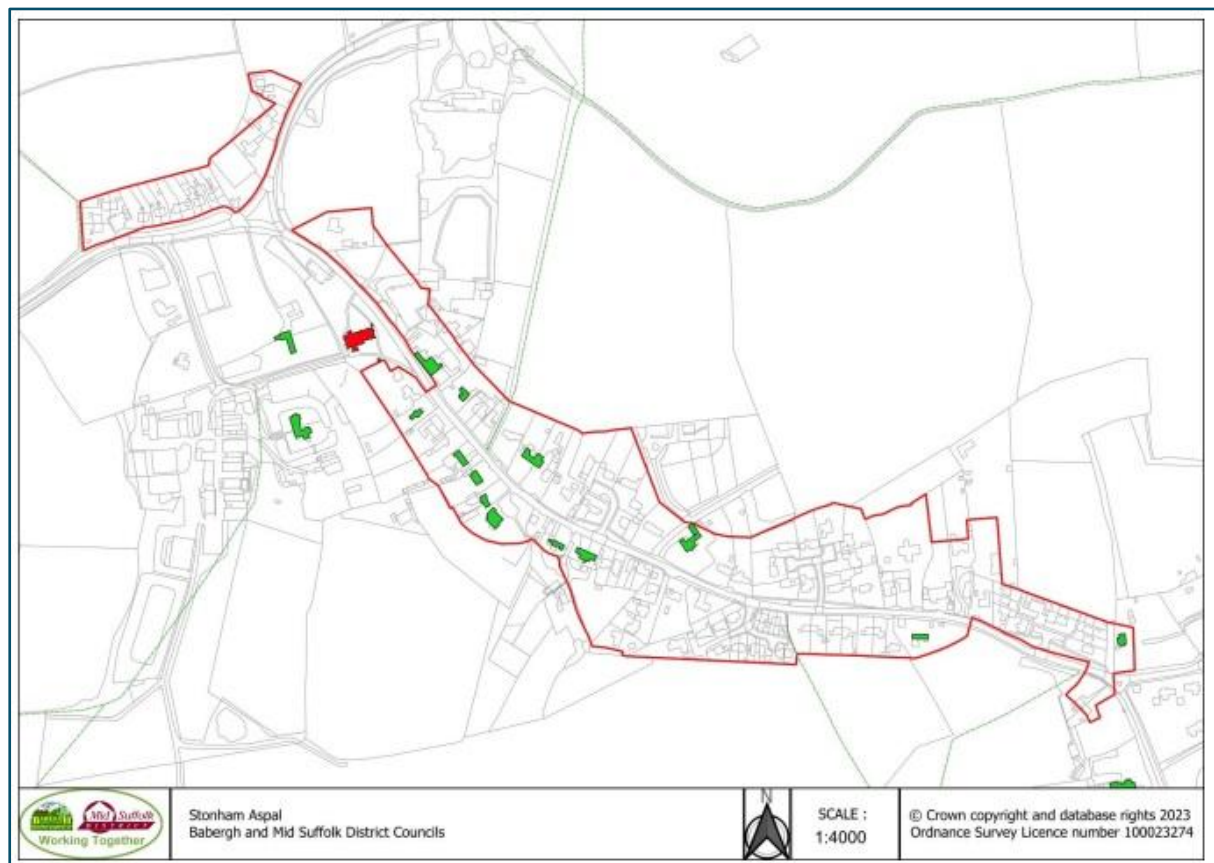


Figure 6 - Stonham Aspal Settlement Boundary

NOTE: The **Green** buildings show the Grade II and II* Listed Buildings and the **Red** is the Grade I Listed Building (The Parish Church).

Link to Mill Green Settlement Map in the Joint Local Plan for Mid Suffolk

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/jlp-settlement-maps-master-doc-part-1-sep-24>

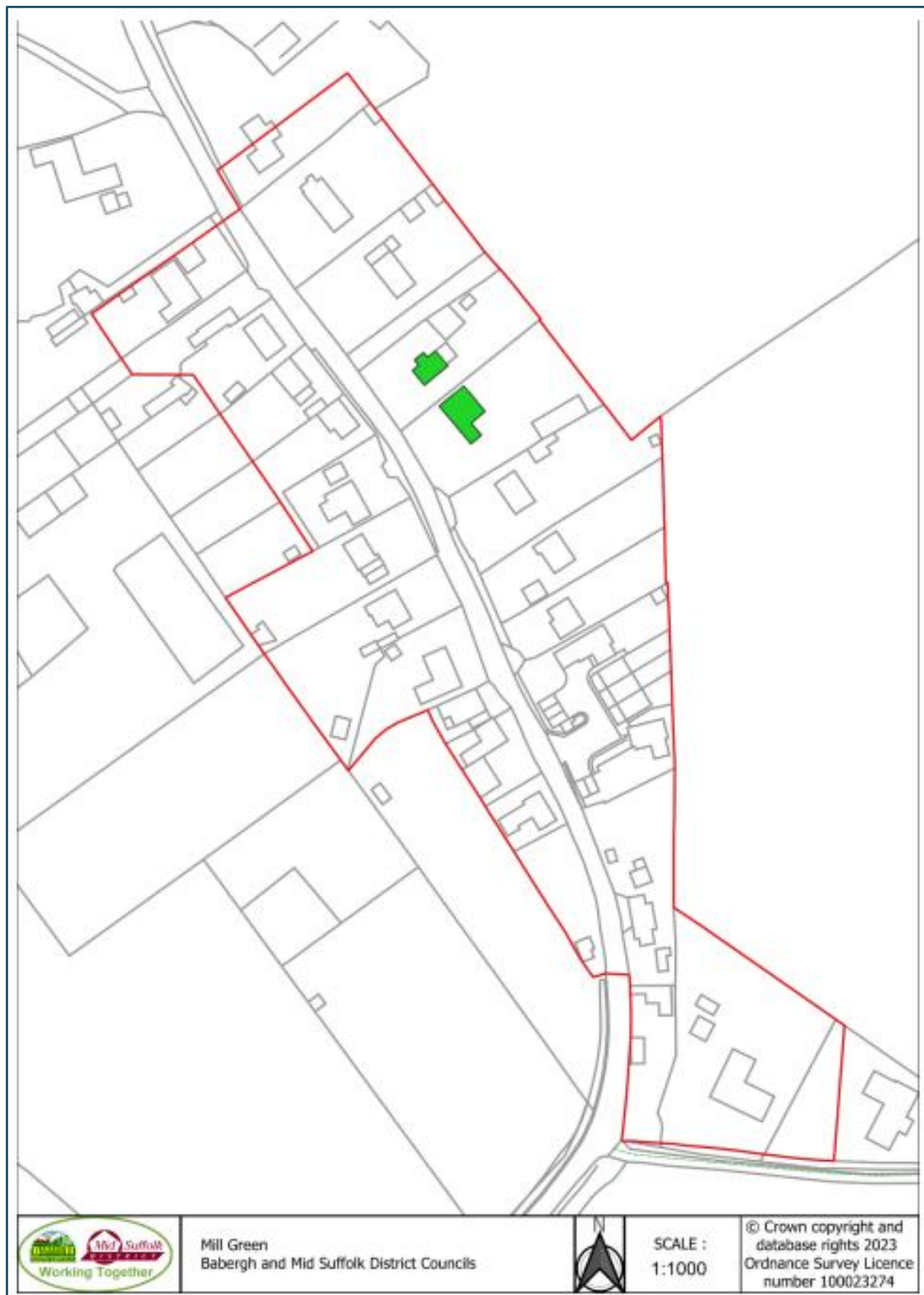


Figure 7 - Mill Green Settlement Boundary

NOTE: The **Green** buildings show the Grade II Listed Buildings.

8.1. Sports & Community Facilities

The Parish is fortunate to have a Tennis Court as well as the Village Hall.

The Recreation Ground is suitable for young children and there is also the Football Pitch, hosting the Stonham Aspal Football Club. It is this Football Pitch that is currently being developed into [Homestead Park](#). The Football Pitch will be re-instated towards the back of the Site after Phase 1 is completed. The Sports Pavillion will be fitted with Changing Rooms and Toilets, but internal fit out of the social areas is expected to be funded from elsewhere.

8.2. Community Groups

The Parish includes the following Communities:

- Church
 - Thursday Coffee Morning
- Men's Breakfast Club
- Recreation Ground
- School
- Stonham Barns
- Village Hall
 - Cinema
 - Community Council
 - Tennis Club
 - Quiz Night
- Women's Institute

8.3. Homestead Park

Planning Application **DC/19/02299** and all its associated Planning Documents is for the erection of 46 dwellings, sports pitches and a sports community building with associated access improvements, parking, play space, infiltration basin and landscaping.

- 2 x 2 Bedroom Houses (79m2)
- 1 x 1 Bedroom Bungalow (50m2)
- 2 x 2 Bedroom Houses (70m2)
- 19 x 3 Bedroom Houses (85m2)
- 1 x 3 Bedroom Houses 112m2)
- 7 x 2 Bedroom Bungalows (68m2)
- 6 x 3 Bedroom Bungalows (82m2)
- 7 x 3 Bedroom Bungalows (99m2)

Of these, about 50% are either Shared Ownership or Affordable Rental properties.

The Sports Pavillion will also be developed as part of this development.

8.4. Farms

We have 5 commercial farms in the Parish, plus a number of mixed-use Farmsteads:

- Broughton Hall Farm
- Mill Green Farm
- Mowness Hall Farm
- Park Farm
- Valley Farm

All our Farmers play an active role in the wellbeing of the Parish.

8.5. Health & Medical Facilities

The GP's that cover the Parish are located at Debenham, Needham Market and Mendlesham.

We also have an active team of Community First Responders, as part of the Debenham CFR Group.

A Defibrillator is located in the Telephone Box near the Church. A further Defibrillator is located outside the Parish at Mickfield Village Hall.

8.6. Police & Crime

Police statistics are not available at a Parish level, however the statistics for the Mid Suffolk local Policing Team that covers our area can be found here

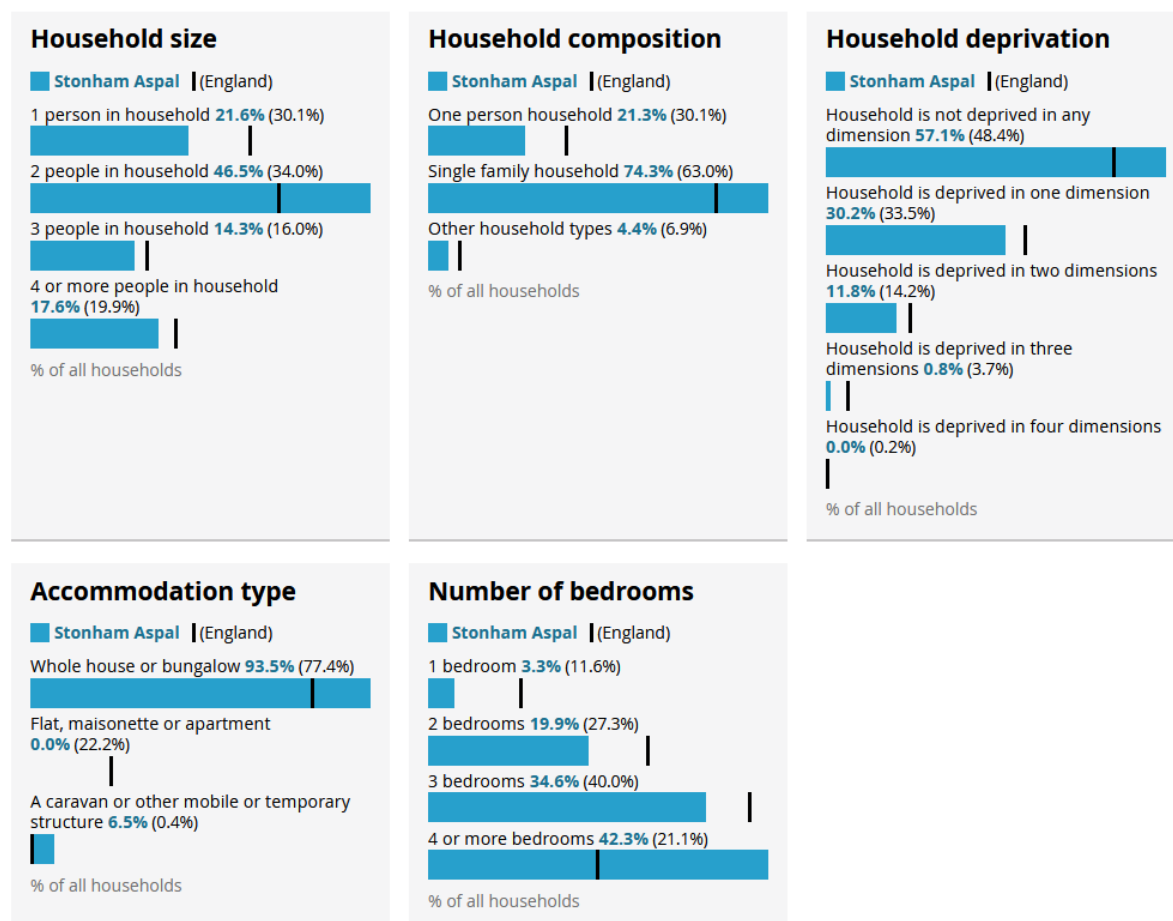
<https://www.police.uk/your-area/suffolk-constabulary/mid-suffolk---north-and-east/?yourlocalpolicingteam=about-us>

Extrapolating the data from the map shows there were 12 recorded crimes within the Parish for the 12 months up until November 2024 (excluding probable domestic crimes), putting the Parish slightly less than the average rate per 1000 inhabitants for a predominantly rural location.

8.7. Housing

Data from the 2021 Census show the Housing composition in the Parish.

Stonham Aspal



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

! The data and boundaries displayed in this profile are aggregated from small areas on a best-fit basis, and therefore may differ slightly from other sources.

Figure 8 - Data from the 2021 Census showing the Housing composition in the Parish

We also have a number of Mid Suffolk District Council-owned properties; one on the opposite side of the road to Walnut Tree Meadow and 10 on the Stowmarket Road near The Pound. There are also two properties owned and managed by the Metcalfe Charities.

8.7.1. Affordable Housing

There are limited employment opportunities in the immediate area and the public transport that exists is not suitable for commuting, therefore development

of larger executive style housing would probably not reflect market demand in the Parish.

8.8. Road Distribution Network

The A1120 is the Zone Distributor Lorry Route that runs more or less from the coast in the East to Stowmarket in the West. It crosses the A140 at a staggered junction that runs North to South at Stonham Aspal.

The A140 is a Strategic Lorry Route, running South from Norwich to where it joins the A14 at Coddanham, North of Ipswich.

More information on the Recommended Lorry Route Network Map can be found here <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/lorry-route-plan-review-in-suffolk/recommended-lorry-route-network-map>

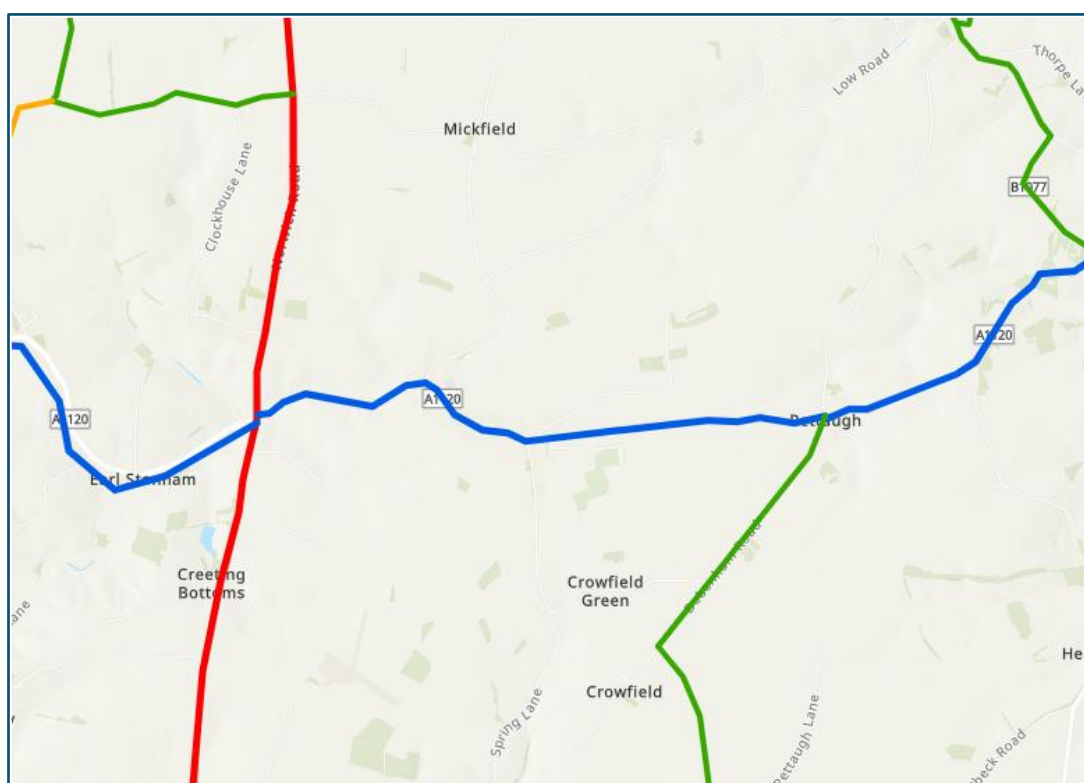


Figure 9 - Main Road Distribution Network (Blue=Zone Distributor Lorry Route, Red=Strategic Lorry Route)

The A1120 (shown in blue), is the Zone Distributor Lorry Route

8.9. Public Transport

8.9.1. Taxi Bus

The Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus Service operates through Stonham Aspal - <https://www.suffolktaxibus.com/stowmarket-circular-via-debenham>

The Taxi Bus can be booked using the website in the link above, where you will also find the exact timings.

The **TB10 Service** runs twice a day on a Thursday and starts at 09:54 and again at 13:34, from Stowmarket. The route travels from Stowmarket through Stowupland, Earl Stonham, Stonham Aspal, Pettaugh, Winston Green and finishes at Debenham.

The **TB11 Service** runs twice a day on a Thursday and starts at 10:36 and again at 14:16, from Debenham. The route travels from Debenham through Winston Green, Pettaugh, Stonham Aspal, Earl Stonham, Stowupland and finishes at Stowmarket.

8.9.2. Bus Routes

There are two Bus Routes that travel through Stonham Aspal. <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Suffolk-Network-Map.pdf>.

The 116, run by First Bus. This travels from Debenham, via Mickfield, Stonham Aspal, Pettaugh, Crowfield, Coddensham, Hemingstone, Henley, Broom Hill and finally Ipswich. <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-04-14-First-116.pdf> Information correct as at March 2025. The Bus Stops are at Pound Corner and outside Stonham Barns.

The 114, run by Simonds. This travels from Diss via Stonham Aspal and many other villages, including Stonham Aspal, to Ipswich. <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2021-04-12-Simonds-110-112-113-114-v4.pdf>. Information correct as at March 2025. The Bus Stop is at Pound Corner.

There is no direct Public Transport from Stonham Aspal to any of our local Market Towns of Stowmarket, Needham Market or Framlingham.

8.9.3. Rail Network

Stonham Aspal does not have any direct Public Transport links to the Rail Network at Stowmarket or Needham Market.

8.10. Traffic Calming Measures

8.10.1. Speed Indication Devices (SID's)

Stonham Aspal has two Speed Indicator Devices (SID's). At the present time, we are awaiting the installation of further poles so the SID's can be moved around so that drivers do not become complacent.

8.10.2. Mill Green Signage

In 2024, new signage announcing the entering and departing of Mill Green at the Settlement Boundaries was installed together with new white Edge Lines throughout.

8.11. Footpaths & Verges

The Primary School is on the main A1120 which does not allow [parking](#).

Parents who live in the Parish have to cross the busy A1120 three times in order to walk on verges to take their children to School. In places near the School, the A1120 is narrower than the statutory limit for the aforementioned Designated Lorry Route – this results in instances of the Lorries mounting the pavements in order to pass each other. The wing mirrors of these Lorries are at approximate head-height of the average adult. The danger to children cannot be underestimated.

The verges through the Parish are inconsistent.

The Northern side of the main A1120 has a Footpath along most of its length, except towards the eastern edge. The Southern side of the A1120 is fairly poor in terms of Footpaths and pedestrians are required to cross the busy A1120 in order to walk children to school. In the three maps below, black lines show where the footpaths are on both sides of the road. The absence of a black line indicates that people have to walk in the road to access those properties.

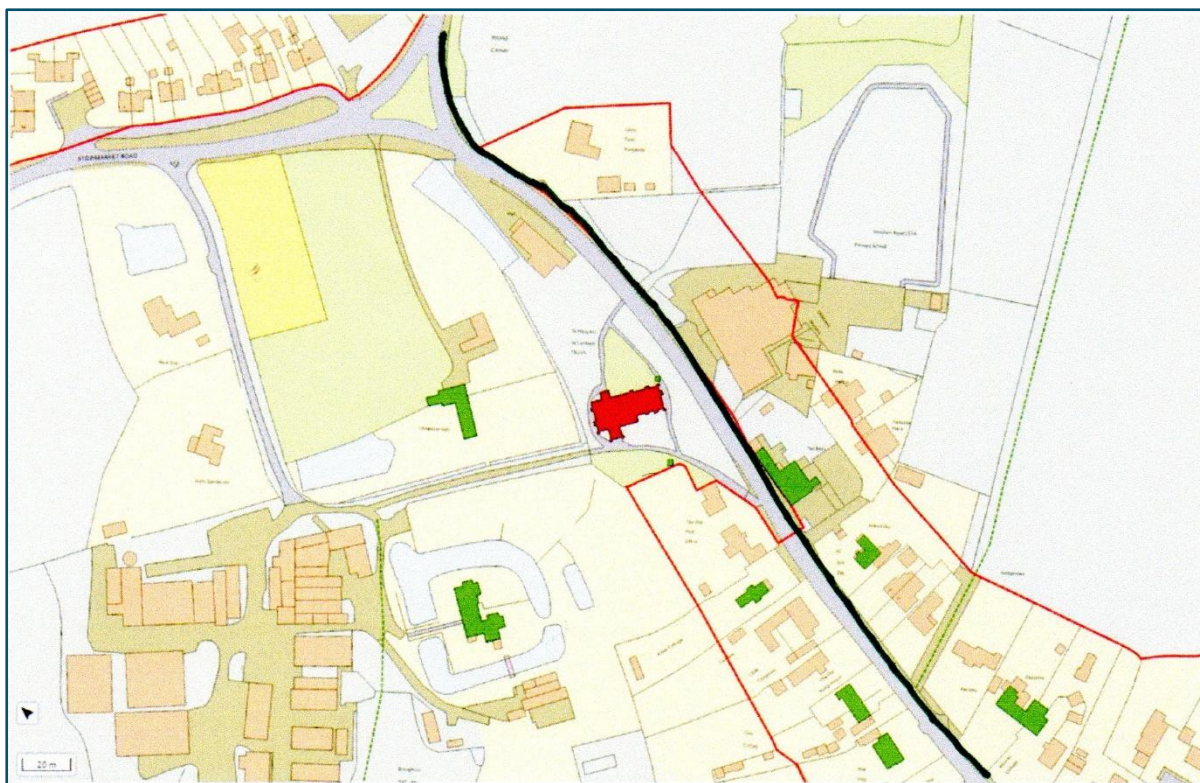


Figure 10 - A1120 Western end of Stonham Aspal

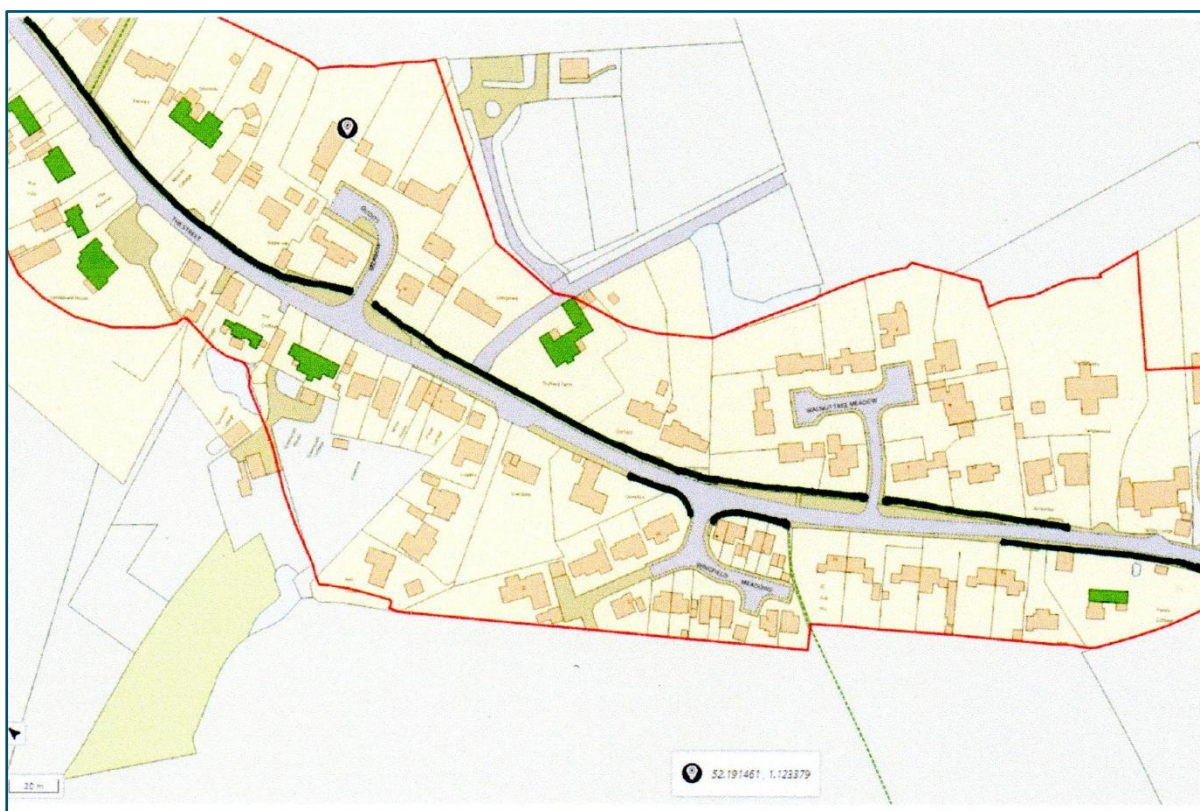


Figure 11 - A1120 Centre of Stonham Aspal

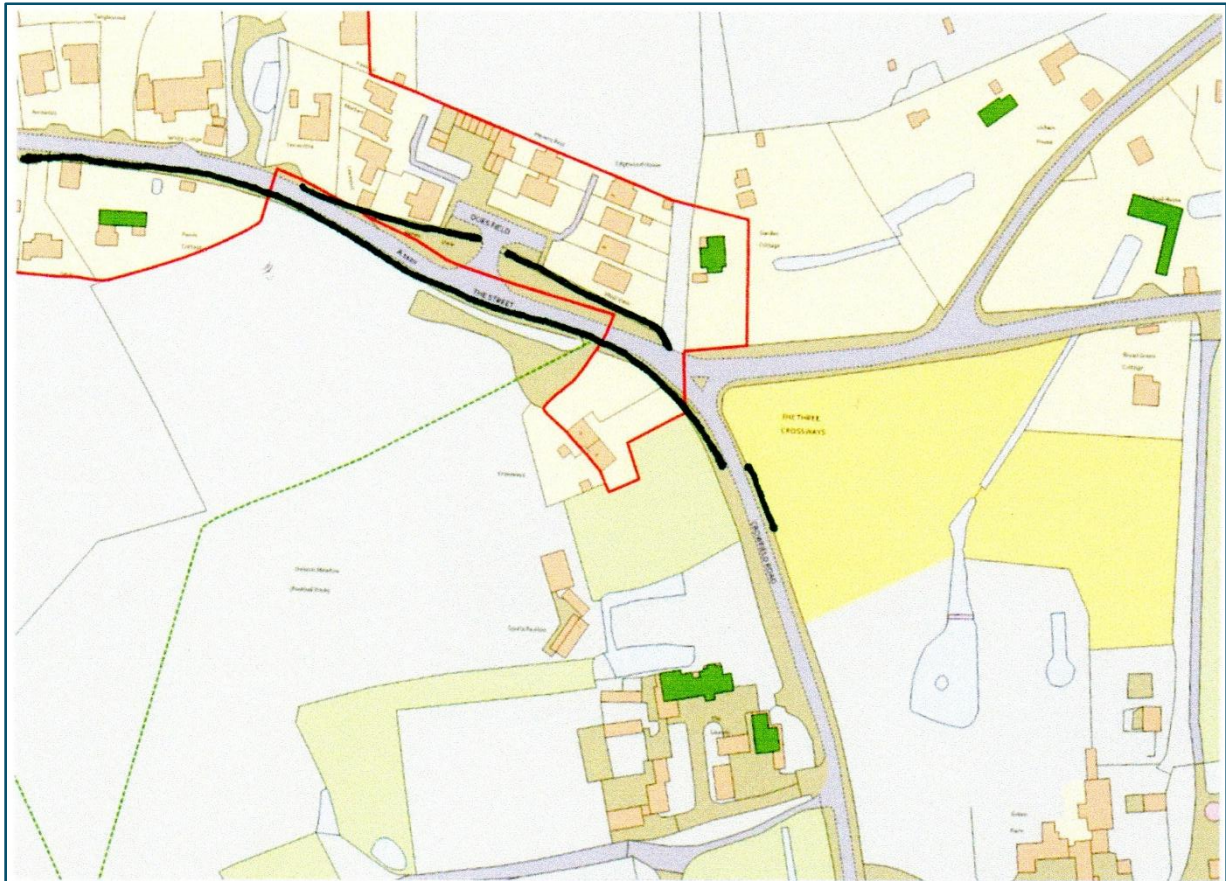


Figure 12 - A1120 Eastern end of Stonham Aspal

There are no footpaths between the Eastern edge of the Settlement Boundary and the Stonham Barns site.

There are no footpaths in Mill Green.

8.12. Public Rights Of Way (PROW)

The local area is criss-crossed with public footpaths (see map below) and some local farmers are willing to allow considerate users to exercise by using the field margins.

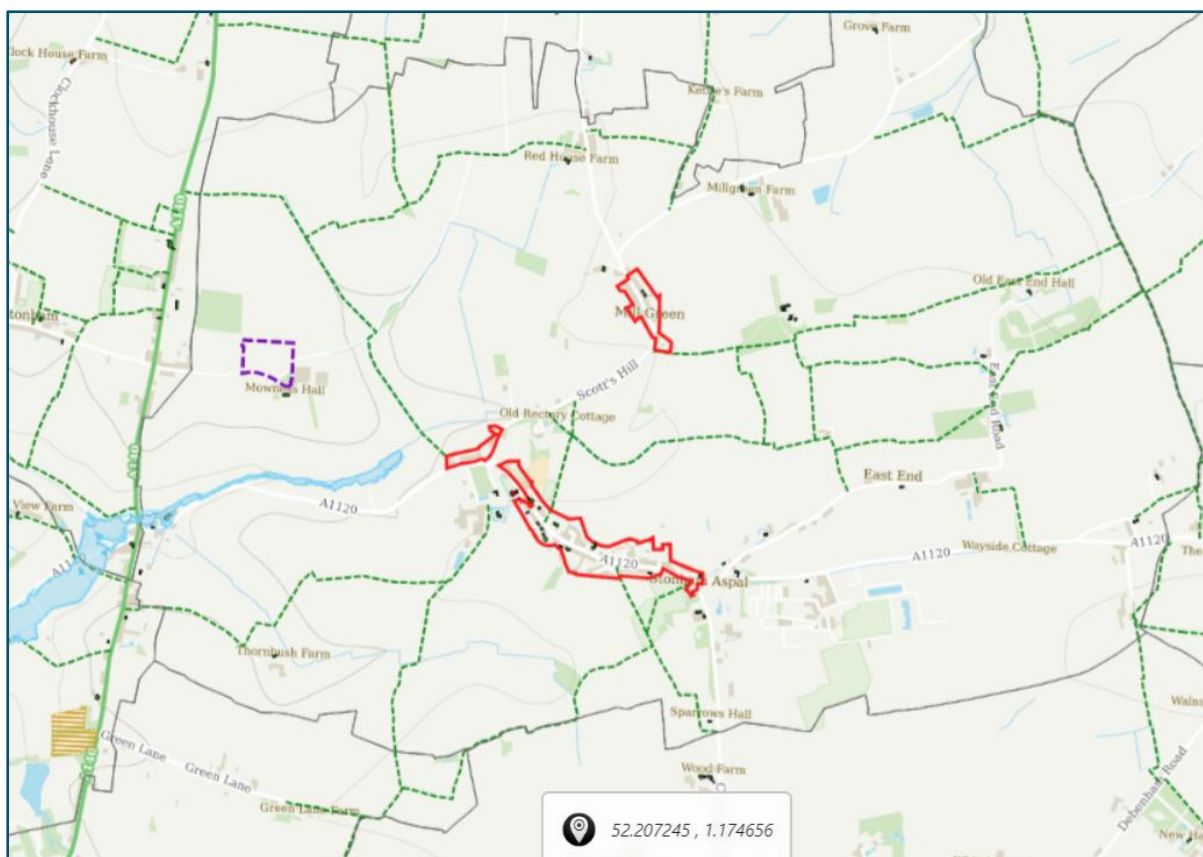


Figure 13 – Parish showing the Public Rights Of Way in Green Dotted lines

The map above is not intended to be the Definitive Public Rights Of Way Map. Please consult Suffolk County Council for the [Definitive Map & Statement](#).

8.13. Parking

Many respondents of our Survey cited parking to be of primary concern.

The only designated car parking spaces are those at the Village Hall, which can hold about 8 cars, including 1 Disabled space.

Users of the Village Hall, Tennis Courts and parents dropping children off at the school generally park at The Pound or at Broughton Hall Farm nearby.

8.14. Shops

There are a number of shops at the Stonham Barns site, including a Post Office. These can only be reached by Car, as the footpath does not extend to the Stonham Barns Site.

The Ten Bells Pub (opposite the Church) is now open as a Café and Convenience Store.

There is a Farm Shop and Café at Hog & Hen in Mill Green.

8.15. Water / Sewage

Water and Wastewater in the Parish is provided by [Anglian Water](#).

8.16. Broadband

While parts of the Parish benefit from Superfast Broadband or Fibre To The Premises (FTTP), areas with limited broadband infrastructure typically experience download speeds of 5–10 Mbps

The Parish Council has recently approved the expenditure of CIL funding to support better connectivity at the Village Hall.

8.17. Precept

The Parish Precept is a local tax levied by the Stonham Aspal Parish Council to fund its activities and services. This tax is part of the council tax that residents pay to Mid Suffolk District Council. The amount of the precept is determined by the Parish Council and is used to cover various costs, such as maintaining public spaces, supporting local community initiatives, and providing services that benefit the parish.

The Parish Precept for 2025/2026 is 1.2% of the total Council Tax bill, amounting to about £25.70 per annum for the average Band D Property.

8.18. CIL (District & Neighbourhood)

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a fixed rate payment that Mid Suffolk District Council charge on new buildings in the area. This is to offset the impacts of additional homes and businesses on facilities such as:

- public transport infrastructure
- schools
- open spaces
- health centres (infrastructure)

CIL also enables sustainable growth.

Section 106 (S106) Legal Agreements will be used alongside CIL to secure onsite infrastructure and things that are not infrastructure (like affordable housing).

Access the [Developer Contributions Database](#) to search for how much has been contributed to Stonham Aspal Parish. The [User Guide](#) is also worth a read.

CIL is charged on all relevant planning permissions granted, and all relevant permitted developments.

Specific information on how CIL relates to Parish Councils is available here <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/54707/115216/Parish+Support+-+CIL-guidance-for-Parish-Councils-May-2016.pdf/c7a0cf6f-3b87-fb97-9a09-b9168fa52125?t=1684923174503>.

Of the CIL money paid by Developers, 5% will be retained by Mid Suffolk District Council in order to administer the fund; 15% will go direct to the Parish Council. If Stonham Aspal had a Neighbourhood Plan then that would rise to 25%; the remaining money (either 80% or 70%) is held by MSDC awaiting bids by local organisations for local infrastructure development.

9. Charities

The Parish currently hosts 4 charities made up of the **Metcalf General Charity**, the **Metcalf Educational Trust**, the **Stonham Aspal Sick and Poor Fund** and the **Olivier Trust**. The original Metcalf Charity was set up in 1612 by the Will of Rev. John Metcalf.

In addition, there are Charities for the **Village Hall** and the **Pre-School**.

All the charities are registered and regulated by the Charities Commission for England and Wales and are managed by trustees made up of individuals who live in the parish of Stonham Aspal and Pettaugh.

For further information on any of these charities please contact the Stonham Aspal Charities at stonhamaspalcharities@yahoo.co.uk.

More details of the historical aspects of these Charities can be found at <https://debenham-ops.org.uk/StonhamAspalCharities.htm>

9.1. Metcalf General Charity (Charity Number: 240013)

This charity pays eleemosynary pensions to deserving elderly people in Stonham Aspal and divides the remaining income of the Charity equally between the Parish Church and other (civil) parish purposes. The income from a small endowment investment, The Rector's Land Fund, is made available to the Rector of the Parish.

9.2. Metcalf Educational Trust (Charity Number: 310363)

The Foundation assists in meeting the educational needs of children resident in Stonham Aspal or Pettaugh by making grants for purposes outside the remit of the Local Educational Authority. It maintains a residential bungalow, originally intended to provide a home for a village schoolmaster in Stonham Aspal.

9.3. Stonham Aspal Sick and Poor Fund (Charity Number: 269732)

This charity makes grants to deserving individuals in the parish of Stonham Aspal who are sick, infirm, or convalescent, to defray the costs of recuperative holidays or domestic help for such individuals and if appropriate to supply medical aids or other comforts.

9.4. Olivier Trust (Charity Number: 273053)

This charity provides a residence (Garden Cottage) for aged and poor people in the parish of Stonham Aspal.

9.5. Village Hall (Stonham Aspal) (Charity number: 304821)

The Charity provides a meeting place (Village Hall) and the Tennis Courts.

9.6. Stonham Aspal Pre-School (Charity number: 4023413)

Pre-School – this is no longer operational and has now been removed from the Register.

9.7. Stonham Aspal Football Club

Stonham Aspal Football Club is a grassroots football organization. It competes in the Suffolk & Ipswich League, specifically in Division 2, which is part of the lower tiers of English football.

The club is a Trust with a long history, having been established in 1906, and it focuses on community engagement and local sports development.

10. Engagement

Gathering views has been done as widely as possible and included everyone who lives in Stonham Aspal. A Parish Survey was conducted in 2021 and again in 2024 – the results of which have informed this plan.

10.1. Supporting Engagement & Decision Making

Our Public Engagement took many different approaches; The digital survey was quick and easy for those who maybe go to work every day and we utilised the Coffee Morning held in the Church on a Thursday morning for engagement and also had a drop off box for those hard-copy returns of the Parish Survey. We also used our Facebook Page and the Parish Council Website to advertise where and how the Survey could be accessed. The Digital Survey was hosted and supported by Mid Suffolk District Council.

Digital

- Digital Survey, on the Mid Suffolk District Council Website
- Stonham Aspal Parish Council Website - QR Codes and links to the Survey
- Stonham Aspal Facebook Page - QR Codes and links to the Survey

Non-Digital

- Visuals – posters and banners on two Parish Noticeboards (one near the Rectory and the other in the centre of Mill Green) and the Village Hall Noticeboard
- A6 sized poster though every letterbox
- Community Magazine - QR Codes and links to the Survey
- Local Councillors
- Parish Council Meetings
- Church - Blank hard-copies of the Survey, plus drop-off secure postbox

11. Summary Of 2024 Parish Survey Results

The Parish Council undertook a survey, open to all residents of the Parish, in June 2024. This elicited 63 responses, representing around 25% of the households in the Parish. Although not as high as would have been liked, it still represents a good number to base a summary of what is important to the residents. The full results of this survey are available in a presentation at the following link:

<https://stonhamaspal.onesuffolk.net/assets/Stonham-Aspal-Survey-Responses-PresentationSEMUpdates.pdf>

For the purposes of this plan, several key highlights will be pulled out.

11.1. What do residents enjoy about living in the Parish

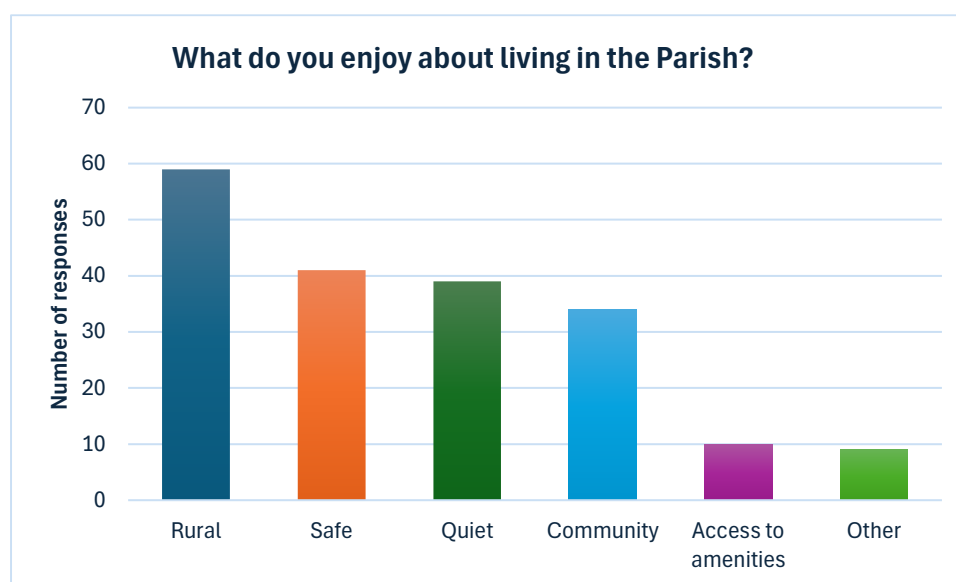


Figure 14 - What do residents enjoy about living in the Parish?

Clearly the key elements of small village life – a quiet, safe, rural location with a sense of community - are the main things that respondents liked about living in the Parish. It follows then that any long-term plans for the Parish protect these aspects as far as possible. Section 8.6 on local crime rates provides the latest data on reported crime in the Parish.

The low score on access to amenities probably reflects the fact that, other than the retail units at Stonham Barns, the Parish does not currently contain many amenities. Existing amenities are the village hall, recreation ground, school and church, with the Ten Bells pub and Sports Pavillion due to open in 2025.

11.2. What nature areas do residents use within the Parish

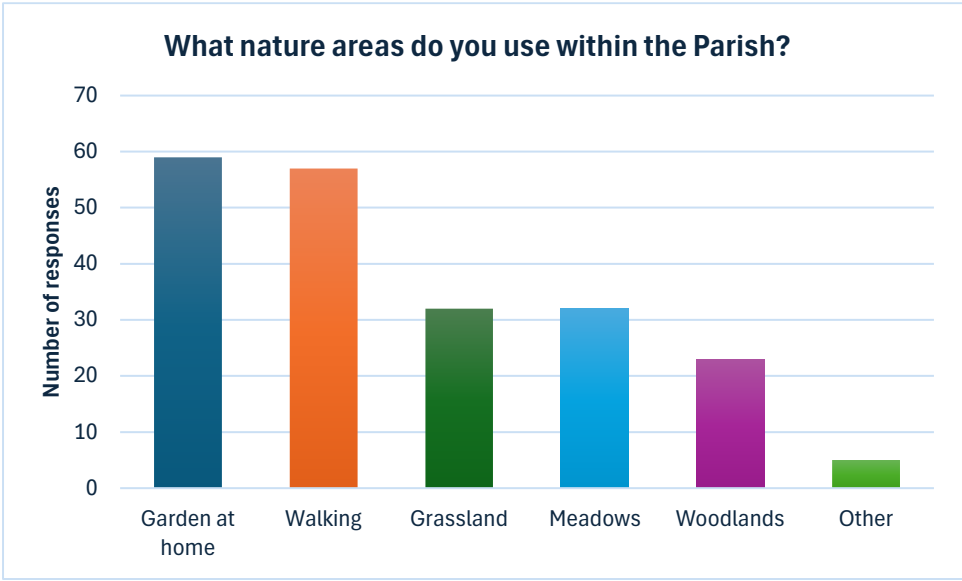


Figure 15 - What nature areas do residents use within the Parish?

The two areas that stand out are walking and home gardens. As previously noted in the Section on the [Public Rights Of Way \(PROW\)](#), there are many public footpaths criss-crossing the Parish, and the response here suggests that residents value access to these. Future plans should therefore aim to preserve these (and if appropriate and practical, maintain access to them).

The use and enjoyment of home gardens would suggest the importance of maintaining a quiet environment, obviously within the restraints of the nature of the road network identified in the Section on the [Road Distribution Network](#).

11.3. Which community groups and local facilities do residents use

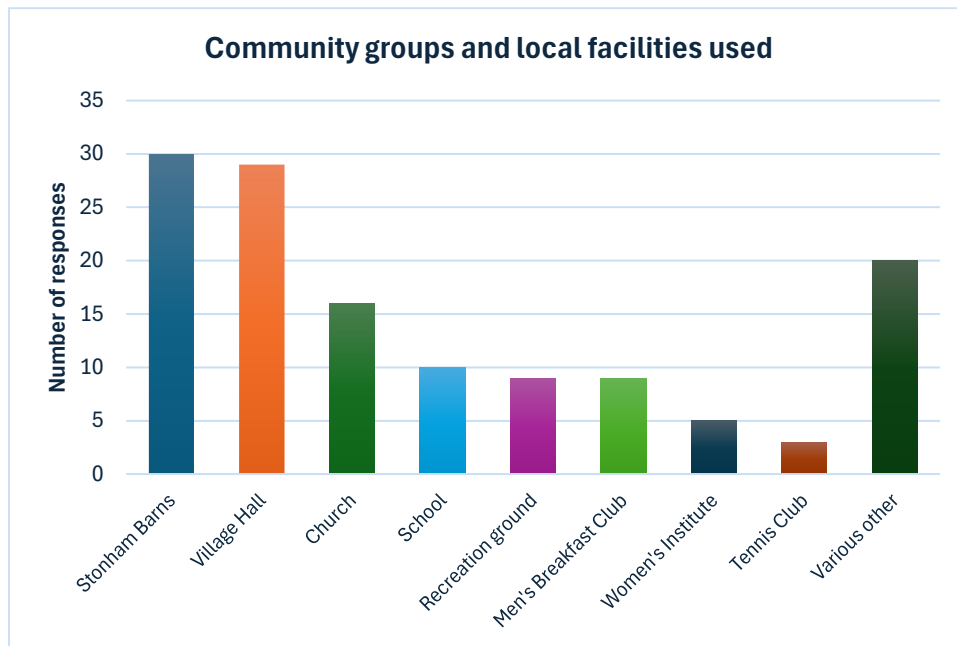


Figure 16 - Which Community Groups and local facilities do residents use?

Of note here is the importance of the Village Hall to Parish residents. Other than the Recreation Ground, the other groups, facilities and commercial enterprises are run independently from the Parish Council. Stonham Barns provides both retail outlets and shows that can be used by local residents.

11.4. Which projects should be prioritised in the parish

Seven possible projects were suggested in the survey, and the scoring by respondents for each of these gave the following order of priority (highest first, rated out of a maximum score of 7):

1. Additional Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) – 4.8
2. Solar panels on Village Hall – 4.2
3. Internet connectivity at Village Hall - 3.9
4. Support for social events at the new sports pavilion – 3.9
5. New play area equipment at the Recreation Ground – 3.7
6. Car park for tennis courts – 3.5
7. Outdoor gym equipment at the Recreation Ground – 3.4

Notes on Items above:

1. Since the survey additional SID's have been added. Item complete.
2. Any PV Installation at the Village Hall would also include battery storage.
3. This is in progress, funded by Parish CIL following submission by the Village Hall Committee, and is due for completion in 2025.
4. Once the new sports pavilion at the football club is completed, discussions will take place with the football club about how this new facility can fit in with the current community & social life in the Parish.
5. Equipment at the Recreation Ground is always under review and replaced as necessary.
- 6 & 7. At this stage, anything scoring 3.5 or below represents a minority of support and is therefore discounted as a potential project.

11.5. Other suggestions for projects

Respondents were also asked to give their own ideas for other future projects. These were numerous, so it is easier to group these into similar themes:

- Firstly, a number of suggestions fall outside the immediate remit of the Parish Council, but into the scope of Mid-Suffolk District Council or Suffolk County Council. However, some of these may not be practical from a legislative or cost point of view. These include - filling potholes, footpath improvements, traffic calming measures such as bollards, speedbumps or narrow lanes, hedge trimming on the main Street, and water and drainage improvements.
- A second group are suggestions that would need to be evaluated on a cost/benefit basis and further investigated to judge the likely take-up and overall benefit to the Parish. These include – bus shelters, flower beds, litter/dog-poo bins, a bottle bank, electric charging points, a skate park, a youth shelter, cycle tracks and a community woodland.

11.6. General comments from the survey

Residents were able to provide more general comments, and whilst numerous they can be divided into 2 main categories:

- Those relating to road safety – mainly referencing traffic volumes, speeds and footpaths on the A1120.
- References to a lack of car parking, especially for the school.

11.7. Future surveys

The target would be to repeat these Parish surveys on a regular basis.

12. What Next

We will use this section to outline future needs or aspirations and formulate a plan over an agreed period of time, once residents in the Parish have had a chance to comment on the work so far.

12.1. Expected Changes

What does the evidence tell us?

12.2. Future Aspirations

What does this mean for:

- Parish
- People
- Services
- Wellbeing

13. Appendix A – Sources Consulted

13.1. Understanding The National Picture

- [National design guide.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- [BFL-2020-Brochure.pdf](#)
- Strava heatmap (aggregated from users to show intensity of use by runners and cyclists etc.) <https://www.strava.com/heatmap#7.00/-120.90000/38.36000/hot/all>

13.2. Local Information

- Suffolk Local Insight Stonham Aspal - <https://suffolk.localinsight.org/#/map?report=5398>
- [Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)
- Visit Suffolk - <https://www.visitsuffolk.com/>
- Suffolk Churches - <http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/churchlists.htm>
- Suffolk Observatory - <https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/>
- Population Data - <https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/population/reports/#/view-report/a337450d5c3144d3ab93ddf99168c5fe/E04009251/G87>

13.3. Mapping Information

- Mapping - Ordnance Survey - <https://explore.osmaps.com/>
- Open Street Map - <https://www.openstreetmap.org>
- Government mapping of land and marine designations - <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>
- Mid Suffolk Mapping - <https://bmsdc.cloud.cadcorp.com/WebMap/Map.aspx>

13.4. Environment Information

- Geology and soils - <https://geosuffolk.co.uk/>
- Natural England Norfolk and Suffolk - https://twitter.com/NENorfolkSufflk?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor
- Environment Agency flood mapping - <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>
- Suffolk preservation Society - <https://www.suffolksociety.org/>
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust - <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/>
- Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan - <https://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/planning/BAP>
- Great crested newt Risk Zones (Norfolk and Suffolk) –
- MAGIC map - <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

13.5. Community Officers & Information

- <https://babergmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s30057/CMU1%20-%20Appendix%202.pdf>
- <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/home.page>

13.6. Historic & Conservation Information

- Stonham Aspal – One Place Study - <https://debenham-ops.org.uk/index.htm>
- Historic England - <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/>
- ONS – Nomis
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2011_ks/report?compare=E04009251
- Suffolk Landscape Character Study - <https://suffolklandscape.org.uk/>
- Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Assessment - <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/hlc>
- Historic England Listings - <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>
- Historic aerial and satellite photography -
 - <https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/>
 - <https://www.cambridgeairphotos.com/>
 - <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/>
- Historical maps, plans and images –
 - <https://maps.nls.uk/> <https://www.francisfrith.com/uk/>
 - <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/>
- Film and oral history sources - <https://eafa.org.uk/>
- A Vision Of Britain Through Time - <https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10268795>
- Suffolk Institute Of Archaeology Volume XXX, Part 3
<https://stonhamaspal.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Volume-XXX-Part-3-1966-A-Roman-British-bath-house-at-Stonham-Aspal-N-Smedley-E-J-Owles-220-to-234.pdf>

14. Appendix B – Document Change Control

1st Draft Created: Version 0.6 Version 0.7 Version 1.0 Version 1.1	1 st August, 2024 4 th March 2025 – For Parish Council Discussion 27 th March 2025 – For Parish Council Discussion 1 st April 2025 – Approved for publication 3 rd March 2026 – Approved for publication, Inclusion of Taxi Bus Service (Paragraph 8.9.1)
By:	The Stonham Aspal Parish Council CIL Working Party: • Parish Councillor Gerald Brooks • Parish Councillor Peter Emberson • Parish Councillor Suzie Morley • Parish Councillor Ian Wright
Approved:	3 rd March 2026
Next Review:	April 2027