

Sustainable Communities Survey Results 2009

Proposal		Total Votes	Total %	Total Rank	No. 1st Choice Votes	1st Choice %	1st Choice Rank	No 2nd Choice Votes	2nd Choice %	2nd Choice Rank	No. 3rd Choice Votes	3rd Choice %	3rd Choice Rank
J	Request that the Government introduces a new policy to safeguard the existing Post Office network by allowing them to perform new functions and provide services for the local community.	882	21%	1	266	14%	3	169	14%	2	447	40%	1
F	Request that the Government introduce legislation that enables the tax from second homes to be spent in local areas, addressing needs of the local community.	857	20%	2	306	16%	2	382	31%	1	169	15%	2
B	Request that the Government introduces legislation for affordable, sustainable homes. These are to be built by housing co-operatives, private individuals and parish councils for their own use.	648	15%	3	472	25%	1	140	11%	3	36	3%	10
C	"Request that the Government provides financial support or tax incentives to encourage public services, businesses and households to: Install renewable energy kits; Use organic food waste to produce energy; Improve the energy efficiency of existing properties.	325	8%	4	206	11%	4	70	6%	8	49	4%	8
E	Request that the Government provides funding and support to develop an extensive cycle and off-road walkway network.	299	7%	5	139	7%	6	117	10%	4	43	4%	9
D	Request that the Government introduces legislation to make it compulsory for all new developments and strategies to be assessed for their impact on overall sustainability and the communities' health and well-being.	295	7%	6	132	7%	7	86	7%	6	77	7%	4
G	Request that the Government provides funding to support Business Rate relief for local businesses which trade in locally grown or locally made produce.	266	6%	7	94	5%	8	104	9%	5	68	6%	6
H	Request that the Government introduces legislation to enable the introduction of local sustainable energy supplies, and allow them to compete with the larger energy providers.	205	5%	8	51	3%	9	82	7%	7	72	6%	5
A	Request that the Government introduces legislation to make it easier for land to be transferred to local community groups and parish councils in order to meet the needs of the community.	178	4%	9	143	8%	5	17	1%	10	18	2%	11
K	Request that Government provide guidance and financial support to help local authorities and communities to manage and conserve green spaces in a way that improves local communities' resilience to the effects of climate change (or lowers the threat of climate change to communities).	133	3%	10	36	2%	10	8	1%	11	89	8%	3
I	Request that the Government provides longer term consistent funding and support for voluntary groups and activities.	121	3%	11	11	1%	11	47	4%	9	63	6%	7
Total Votes		4209	100%		1856	100%		1222	100%		1131	100%	



Sustainable Communities Survey 2009

Background to the consultation

The **Sustainable Communities Act** resulted from a Private Members Bill which was prompted by work published on 'Ghost-town Britain'. This work highlights how the **loss** of small local businesses and community facilities **impacts** on an area, and also the links this has with **wider sustainability** concerns.

The **Aim of the Act** is:

To promote the sustainability of local communities by encouraging the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

Encouraging a sustainable community includes four themes:

1. **Local Economy**- promoting local shops, businesses, public services and local jobs;
2. **Environment**- promoting local renewable energy projects, protecting green spaces;
3. **Social Inclusion**- protecting local public services, alleviating food and fuel poverty;
4. **Democratic Involvement**- promoting participation in decision-making.

How the Act works

The Act allows local communities and their local authorities (district and county councils) to drive central government policy with the aim of reversing the decline in the community.

Councils have now been invited to make proposals to central government as to how the government can change current legislation or policy, or introduce new policies, to help them promote the sustainability of local communities.

The Act specifies that local authorities **cannot** make suggestions to central government without involving 'local people'.

How South Hams District Council has involved local people

An event was held for voluntary, charity, statutory and community groups, town and parish councils and other organisations, on ideas for proposals which could be presented to the Government on behalf of the community.

As a Council we believe it is important for the wider community to have their say on which proposals we finally submit. The attached survey lists the ten most popular proposals which were raised at the event. You are invited to select the three which you feel would be of most benefit to your local community.

Returning your survey

Please complete the survey by Monday 1st June and return it in the reply paid envelope provided.

If you have any difficulties completing the survey call Marketing Means on Freephone 0800 8494019

Completing the survey

On the following two pages are the 11 most popular proposals suggested by attendees at the previous events held by South Hams District Council, laid out in a random order of popularity and labelled A to J.

You are able to choose the three proposals you would most like to see undertaken in the South Hams and then rate them in order of importance. You have been given ten votes to 'spend' when choosing your priorities in order that you can show how important your preferences are to you.

So if one proposal means a great deal to you, you could award it 8 of your votes and only 1 each to your other two priorities. Equally, if there are two proposals that you think are more important you could allocate 5 to one of them and 4 to another, leaving yourself 1 vote for your final priority.

*Remember, you can allocate your votes however you want to, but you can only choose to allocate your **10 votes to 3** of the following 11 proposals.*

Write the number of votes out of 10 you have allocated to your choices in the boxes provided, 1 character per box. When you have chosen your three proposals and allocated your votes, you can place them in order, with the votes cast, in the 'verification' section at the end, which will allow you to see clearly that you have allocated your votes correctly.

Worked example

In the example below the respondent has decided that proposal 'E' is one that they want to support. After deciding on the other two proposals that they want to support (in this case 'A' and 'J') they have decided that 'E' is more important to them than the other two. The respondent has therefore allocated 6 votes to proposal 'E' written into the votes allocation box beside the proposal.

E. Request that the Government provides funding and support to develop an extensive cycle and off-road walkway network.

Delivering a network of cycle routes and walkways in towns and villages will reduce reliance on fossil fuels as well as encouraging exercise and improving individual well-being.

Votes Allocated	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>

They have then put all three of their choices and votes into the verification boxes at the end of the survey to ensure that they have allocated their votes correctly

Chosen Proposals	Votes Allocated
<input type="text" value="E"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text" value="6"/>
<input type="text" value="A"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text" value="2"/>
<input type="text" value="J"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text" value="2"/>
<hr/>	
Total Votes	<input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="0"/>

Summary proposals

(If you require further information on these proposals please visit our website www.southhams.gov.uk <<http://www.southhams.gov.uk>>)

- A. Request that the Government introduces legislation to make it easier for land to be transferred to local community groups and parish councils in order to meet the needs of the community.**

Community Asset Transfers allow land to be transferred from local authority ownership to community groups at less than market value. A similar scheme operates in Scotland - Community Right To Buy. This would give community groups 'first refusal' on any land disposal by the local authority.

- B. Request that the Government introduces legislation for affordable, sustainable homes. These are to be built by housing co-operatives, private individuals and parish councils for their own use.**

Suggested new policy 'Private Initiative Affordable Housing' which would allow private individuals, self-build schemes, housing co-operatives and not for profit collectives to build sustainable homes for their own use.

- C. Request that the Government provides financial support or tax incentives to encourage public services, businesses and households to:**

- Install renewable energy kits;
- Use organic food waste to produce energy;
- Improve the energy efficiency of existing properties.

Suggestions include grants for sustainable improvements; funding for anaerobic digesters - energy from food/organic waste; reductions in VAT for insulation and energy efficiency improvements to older properties.

- D. Request that the Government introduces legislation to make it compulsory for all new developments and strategies to be assessed for their impact on overall sustainability and the communities' health and well-being.**

This will require Integrated Impact Assessments to be carried out on all new developments, which would mean looking at build quality; transport and infrastructure and access to the natural environment. This would require adopting a multi-agency approach to assess the full impact of the development on the health and well-being of the community.

- E. Request that the Government provides funding and support to develop an extensive cycle and off-road walkway network.**

Delivering a network of cycle routes and walkways in towns and villages will reduce reliance on fossil fuels as well as encouraging exercise and improving individual well-being.

- F. Request that the Government introduce legislation that enables the tax from second homes to be spent in local areas, addressing needs of the local community.**

This would allow council tax from second homes to be retained in the local area and for the funds to be targeted at alleviating problems that second homes can cause.

Votes Allocated

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Votes Allocated

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Votes Allocated

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Votes Allocated

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Votes Allocated

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Votes Allocated

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- G. Request that the Government provides funding to support Business Rate relief for local businesses which trade in locally grown or locally made produce.**

Councils have discretion to award rate relief but this is partly funded by the council taxpayer. This legislation would mean that any relief would be wholly funded by Government.

Votes Allocated

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- H. Request that the Government introduces legislation to enable the introduction of local sustainable energy supplies, and allow them to compete with the larger energy providers.**

This would allow local sustainable energy suppliers to provide a secure and potentially cheaper supply of energy for local people.

Votes Allocated

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- I. Request that the Government provides longer term consistent funding and support for voluntary groups and activities.**

This is aimed at encouraging volunteer activities within the community.

Votes Allocated

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- J. Request that the Government introduces a new policy to safeguard the existing Post Office network by allowing them to perform new functions and provide services for the local community.**

Reintroducing lost products and services will reinforce the Post Office as a hub for the local community, providing a range of necessary functions such as banking.

Votes Allocated

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- K. Request that Government provide guidance and financial support to help local authorities and communities to manage and conserve green spaces in a way that improves local communities resilience to the effects of climate change (or lowers the threat of climate change to communities).**

This would allow our green spaces to be managed in a way that reduces the impacts of climate change on the surrounding area, for example as water channels and buffer strips.

Votes Allocated

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Verification of your choices

Chosen Proposals	Votes Allocated
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for completing the survey.

Please return your form in the envelope provided by Monday 1st June.