VISION STATEMENT

This neighbourhood plan will go a long way to ensuring that in years to come St. Stephen Parish will be a pleasant place to live, work and visit by: retaining the village character of each Ward; protecting the Green Belt from inappropriate development; ensuring that all green and open spaces, trees and woodlands within and around each village receive maximum protection as well as enhance the natural environment; providing leisure and recreation facilities, commensurate with the requirements of the population including sporting activity centres and open air exercise areas; ensuring that housing developments include smaller, affordable properties for first time buyers thus helping to keep more young people in the villages, should they so desire; preventing divisive gated communities and encourage attractive open front gardens; providing health and medical centres within easy reach of all residents and sufficient education establishments for the young of the parish to be able to attend without lengthy journeys by public transport; providing an effective public transport service seven days a week and convenient and safe routes that encourage walking and cycling; maintaining all existing rights of way and creating new ones to establish a useable, linked-up network; managing traffic speed and reduce vehicles travelling through our villages to other destinations; supporting appropriate development for thriving local retail, businesses and commercial activities.