

STANSTEAD PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY



STANSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - JULY 2025

WHY IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN IMPORTANT?

Stanstead is in the process of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan. Once approved, our plan will have legal force in setting out what development is acceptable in the village. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, residents of the village would have little control over any development that takes place. There are countless examples of villages that have suffered from unwanted development which could have been avoided if they had had a Neighbourhood Plan.

It is vital we have a neighbourhood Plan so that the views of residents are respected.

WHAT IS THIS SURVEY FOR?

This Survey is the basis upon which the Neighbourhood Plan will “voice” the village/parish views and thoughts. It is essential the Plan takes into account the residents’ opinions. We hope the questions included provide an opportunity for you to do this. However, if there are issues or comments you feel strongly about which are not included, there is space at the end of the survey to mention these.

THANK YOU in advance for completing the survey

One copy of this survey has been delivered to each household in the parish. Any resident aged 16 or over can complete the survey. If there is a resident in your household aged 16 or over that would also like to complete the survey separately, please encourage them to email stansteadpc@gmail.com or call Gail on 07961 942227 and they will be sent a survey to complete

The best way to complete the survey is online at:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Stanstead-Survey/>

You can also access the online survey from mobile devices by scanning the QR code:



The survey is totally anonymous

If you prefer to complete a paper version, your complete survey can be dropped off at a box on the front of the Community Centre any time up to 8th August or, if you need it to be collected from your house please email stansteadpc@gmail.com or call Gail on 07961 942227 to arrange

Please complete by Friday 8th August 2025

As an added incentive for completing the survey, two randomly selected completed surveys will receive a voucher for £50 that can be spent at the Community Centre. If you wish to take part, please let us know how to contact you.

Name	
Address	
Telephone	



We will only use this information for the draw. When your survey is collected this page will be separated from the remainder of the survey and, once the draw has been made, the details will be destroyed. If you complete the survey online, you will be directed to a separate form for the draw and this information will be deleted once the draw has been made. **This will ensure that the survey answers remain anonymous.**

BEFORE YOU START, HERE ARE SOME KEY FACTS ABOUT STANSTEAD

From the 2021 Census – did you know?

- The parish population has grown to 360, that is up by around 15% over the last 20 years
- Nearly 30% of residents are aged 65 or over – that is nearly twice as many than in 2001
- There are 150 dwellings in the Parish - 30 more than in 2001
- In 2001 13% of households had three or more cars – by 2021 that was 25%
- There are 19 Listed buildings in the parish - all are Grade II except the Grade I Church
- There are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Parish plus Stanstead Great Wood which is a County Wildlife Site.

Your answers to the following questions will help us understand what current facilities, amenities and services available in Stanstead are important to you. It will also provide guidance as to where these may be improved in the future – thank you again in advance for completing this survey

1. The following Vision Statement has been created from parishioner's comments made at the initial meeting in the Community Centre in April and what the Committee believe to be the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan:

Stanstead will remain a discrete small village, notable for its rural location, its significant past and its strong sense of community and where its unique character will be protected and enhanced.

Do you agree with this draft Vision?

Please tick one box

☐

Yes

☐

No

2. How long have you lived in the Parish?

Please tick one box

☐

0-5 years

☐

6-10 years

☐

11-20years

☐

over 20 years

3. Do you intend to move out of the Parish in the near future e.g. next five years?

Please tick one box

☐

Yes (Go to Q4)

☐

No (Go to Q5)

4. If you answered **YES** to question 3 what are your main reasons for wanting or needing to move?

Tick all that apply

☐

To be closer to family or friends

☐

To be closer to work/new job

☐

To be in a more affordable area

☐

To have a smaller home

☐

To have a larger home

☐

To have a better mobile signal

☐

To be closer to facilities such as shops, doctors or public transport

☐

To make it easier to receive care/support

☐

To provide care/support to family/friends

☐

To move to a more accessible home

☐

To be less reliant on driving a car

☐

To have a larger garden

☐

To have faster broadband

5. To what extent do you value the following features / amenities in the Parish?

Please tick one box per row

	Highly value	Value	Don't value	No opinion
Pretty and unspoilt village	☐	☐	☐	☐
Village history and heritage	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quietness and tranquillity	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rural atmosphere	☐	☐	☐	☐
Open/Green spaces within the village	☐	☐	☐	☐
Not having street lighting	☐	☐	☐	☐
Surrounding countryside/Open views across fields	☐	☐	☐	☐
Separation from other villages by open countryside	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sense of community	☐	☐	☐	☐
Low crime/antisocial behaviour	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public footpaths and bridleways	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quiet Lane (Blooms Hall Lane)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Playground at Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our Church, St James'	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contact Magazine	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please list any other features of Stanstead which you value and wish to see preserved:

6. How do you currently get information about Village news/events?

Please tick all that apply:

☐ Contact Magazine	☐ Facebook page	☐ Village website
☐ Community Centre emails	☐ Village noticeboards	

Other, please specify:

7. Would you like to see other methods of information about village news/events being used?

Please tick one box:

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what?

8. Would you be willing for your email address to be added to a mailing list so that you could receive information about village news/events

Please tick one box:

☐ Yes ☐ No *If yes, please email Gail at Stansteadpc@gmail.com*

9. With regard to the Contact Magazine do you:

Please tick one box:

☐ Prefer to receive a printed copy (Go to Q 11)	☐ Happy to read it online instead (Go to Q 11)	☐ Don't read it (Go to Q 10)
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10. If you answered "don't read it" please feel free to comment as to why not.

Comment:

11. If you do read Contact Magazine, is there anything could be improved

Comment:

THE ENVIRONMENT

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS RELATE TO THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE PARISH.

12. Are there open spaces within the built-up area of the village that you would particularly like to see preserved?

Please list:

13. Are there views of the surrounding countryside from publicly accessible places that you would particularly like to see preserved? If so, please list them.

Please list:

14. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements

<i>Please tick one box per row</i>	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
I value the wildlife and biodiversity in and around Stanstead	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our hedgerows and mature trees need to be protected	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our footpaths/bridleways/the Quiet Lane are clearly marked	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our pavements/footpaths/bridleways/the Quiet Lane are well maintained (e.g. verges kept well mown)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would like to see more recycling facilities in the village e.g. soft plastic, food waste	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Biodiversity should be encouraged through wildflower planting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would like to see better maintenance of drains/ditches	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would like to see better road maintenance (e.g. potholes repaired)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would like to see public EV charging points	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you agreed to the EV charging points, where should they be?

15. Are there any natural or built features in the village which you consider to be particularly important?

Please tick one box:

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list/explain:

16. Are you satisfied that you have sufficient access to the surrounding countryside?

Please tick one box:

☐ Yes (go to Q19) ☐ No (go to Q17) ☐ No opinion (go to Q19)

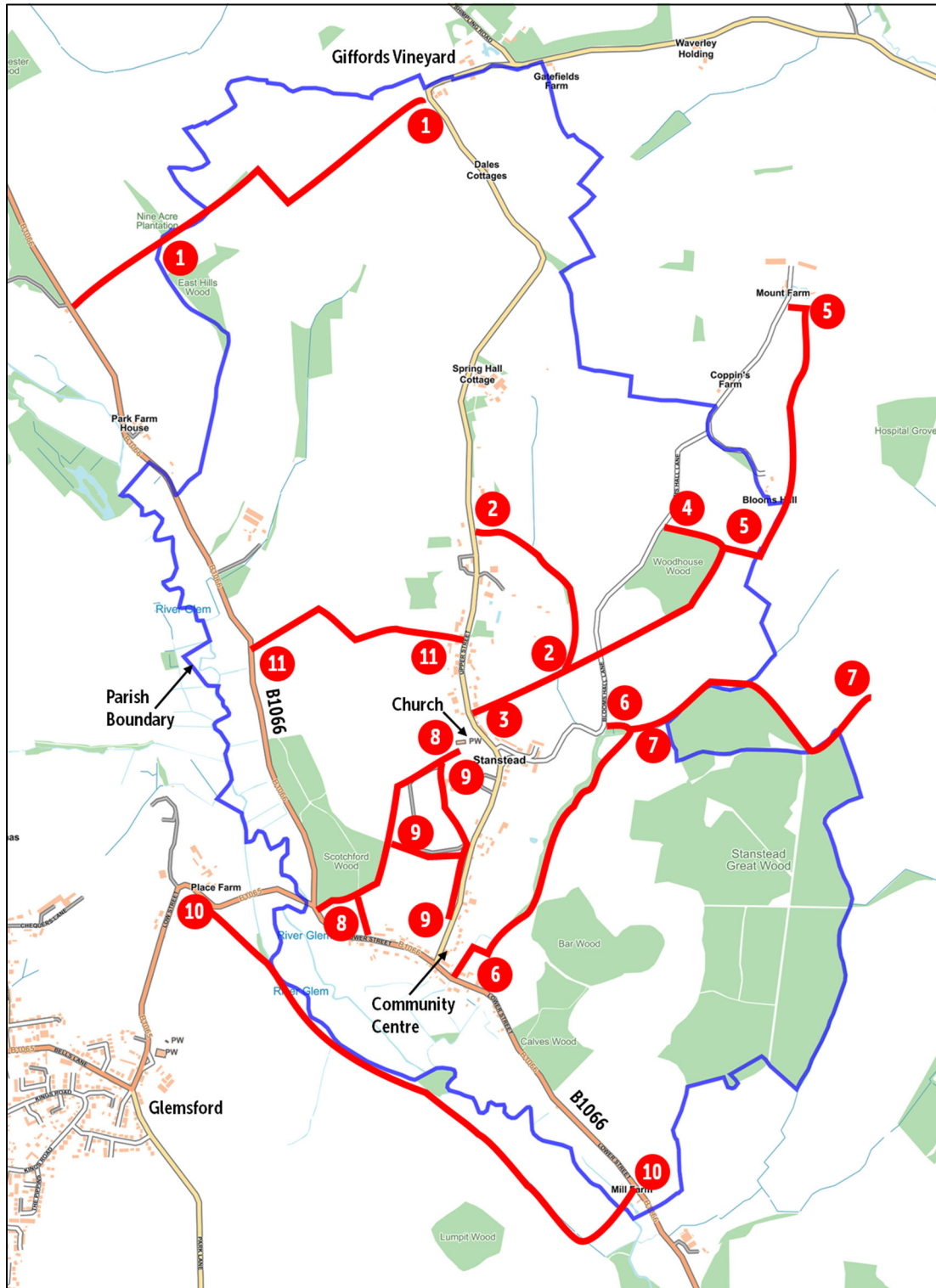
17. If you answered **NO to Q16**, please indicate the factors that are preventing access:

Please tick one box per row

	Yes	No	No opinion
Lack of signage or information boards	☐	☐	☐
Lack of footpaths/bridleways/Quiet Lanes	☐	☐	☐
The state/condition of the footpaths/bridleways/Quiet Lane (e.g. overgrown paths and verges)	☐	☐	☐
The footpaths/bridleways/Quiet Lanes are not adequately connected	☐ Go to Q18	☐	☐

Any other reasons - please specify:

18. If you answered **"yes" to footpaths are not adequately connected** in Q17, please list where you would like to see them connected using the numbering from the map.



Existing public rights of way

LIVING IN THE VILLAGE

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS RELATE TO WHAT POTENTIALLY IMPACTS ON LIVING WITHIN THE PARISH.

19. Which of the following do you consider an issue in the Parish?

Please tick one box per row

Road safety issues; speeding etc.

Dog fouling

Litter/ fly tipping

Parking (e.g. near the Community Centre)

Property crime such as theft/burglary

A serious
issue

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

An issue

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Not an
issue

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

No opinion

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

20. Would you like to see reduced speed limits in the following locations?

Please tick one box per row

Blooms Hall Lane (current limit 60mph)

Lower street (current limit 30 mph)

The Hill (current limit 30 mph)

Upper Street (current limit 30 mph)

Yes

☐
☐
☐
☐

No

☐
☐
☐
☐

Other roads - please specify:

21. Are you satisfied with your broadband speed?

Please tick one box:

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't have broadband

22. How important is your broadband for:

Please tick only one box per row

Your work/education

Your social life

Your home life (home delivery shopping/streaming entertainment, etc)

Very
Important

☐
☐
☐

Important

☐
☐
☐

Neutral

☐
☐
☐

Not
Important

☐
☐
☐

Don't
have it

☐
☐
☐

23. Are you satisfied with your mobile phone signal?

Please tick one box:

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't have mobile phone

24. How important is your mobile phone signal for:

Please tick only one box per row

Your work/education

Your social life

Your home life (home delivery shopping/streaming entertainment, etc)

Very
Important

☐
☐
☐

Important

☐
☐
☐

Neutral

☐
☐
☐

Not
Important

☐
☐
☐

Don't
have it

☐
☐
☐

VILLAGE FACILITIES AND SERVICES

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS RELATE TO THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN THE VILLAGE

25. How often do you, or your family, use the following facilities in the Parish?

Please tick one box per row

	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Footpaths/Bridleways/Quiet Lane	☐	☐	☐	☐
St James' Church	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Food Vans at the Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Monthly Mobile Library	☐	☐	☐	☐
Play Equipment at the Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Basketball hoop at the Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Playing 'field'/grass area at the Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Exercise classes at the Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bar at the Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snooker table/darts/pool/etc at the Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communal Events at the Community Centre (e.g. VE Day, casino night)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bus Service to Bury St Edmunds	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bus Service to Sudbury	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bus Service to School	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please add any other amenities/facilities/services you use, not listed above, and the frequency of use.

Also please comment if you would like to use the above but are unable and reason why unable:

26. Are you currently a member of Stanstead Village Community Centre and Social Club?

Please tick one box:

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

27. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan cannot promise to deliver new amenities / facilities / services, in an ideal world what other new or improved amenities would you like to see in the Parish?

Please tick one box per row

	Important	Not important	No opinion	Would not want
Hyperfast fibreoptic broadband	☐	☐	☐	☐
Better mobile signal	☐	☐	☐	☐
Upgrade Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
More play equipment at Community Centre	☐	☐	☐	☐
More benches / seating	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extend Footpaths/Bridleways/Quiet Lanes	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visitor information boards	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communal Electric Vehicle charging point	☐	☐	☐	☐
Village shop	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community café	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mobile health facilities (e.g. hearing/eye tests)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Allotments	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community orchard	☐	☐	☐	☐
More tree planting / areas for wildflowers	☐	☐	☐	☐
More amenities/facilities for younger people	☐	☐	☐	☐
More amenities/facilities for older people	☐	☐	☐	☐
More amenities/facilities for people with a disability	☐	☐	☐	☐
More bus services	☐	☐	☐	☐
A shared minibus service	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please add any other amenities/facilities/services you would like to see in the village. For those marked "Important" or "Would not want" please provide more details if applicable:

28. If you answered "important" to the following in Q27, where might they be located?

Allotments

Community orchard

Tree planting/areas for wildflowers

Amenities/facilities for younger people (what would you like?)

Amenities/facilities for older people (what would you like?)

Amenities/facilities for people with disability (what would you like?)

29. If you answered "important" to more bus services in Q27, please suggest as to where and the frequency you would use them

30. Would you like to see greater use made of St James' Church for more community purpose?

Please tick one box:

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Unsure

If Yes, what:

BUILDING / DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE PARISH

Within the Parish we have two "settlement boundaries" as shown by the red lines below. These were originally defined by Babergh DC in their 2006 Local Plan and have not been updated since. The boundaries are now considerably out of date, especially after the new housing at High Banks/St Mary's View. In principle, development is permitted (subject to planning permission) within the settlement boundaries. Outside of the settlement boundaries, development will only be permitted in specified circumstances.

The Settlement Boundary will be referred to in some of the following questions.



31. Do you think Stanstead needs more housing?

Please tick one box

☐ Yes (go to Q32 & 33) ☐ No (go to Q34)

32. If you answered "Yes" to question 31, how many houses PER YEAR over the next 20 years would you support

Please tick one box

☐ 1 per year ☐ 2 per year ☐ More

If more, how many per year:

33. If you answered "Yes" to question 31, was it for any of the following reasons?

Please tick one box per row

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
To attract new people into the Parish	☐	☐	☐
To attract new businesses into the Parish	☐	☐	☐
To attract younger people into the Parish	☐	☐	☐
To provide housing for local residents	☐	☐	☐
To provide accommodation for older people	☐	☐	☐

Even if you answered "No" to Q31, please answer the rest of the survey because we would like your views on development that does take place

34. What type of new building / housing is appropriate for Stanstead?

Please tick one box per row

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Small dwellings (1-2 bed)	☐	☐	☐
Medium size dwellings (3-4 bed)	☐	☐	☐
Large dwellings (5+ bed)	☐	☐	☐
Bungalows	☐	☐	☐
Shared accommodation (housing association)	☐	☐	☐
Rented from District Council	☐	☐	☐
Privately rented	☐	☐	☐
Private ownership	☐	☐	☐
Sheltered accommodation	☐	☐	☐
Residential care home	☐	☐	☐
Development of farm units into residential units	☐	☐	☐

35. What factors should be addressed when identifying potential sites for development?

Please tick one box per row

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Should not impact on historic buildings (e.g. Listed properties / Church)	☐	☐	☐
Existing views should be protected	☐	☐	☐
Current open space and verges should be protected	☐	☐	☐
Proposed building line (frontage) should be in keeping with existing building line	☐	☐	☐
Local public rights of way network should be protected	☐	☐	☐
Should not impact on local woodland	☐	☐	☐
Should use infill / brownfield sites before greenfield / farmland	☐	☐	☐
Residential use	☐	☐	☐
Commercial use	☐	☐	☐
Wind/Solar Farm use	☐	☐	☐

36. What design principles should be used in any new building / development?

Please tick one box per row

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Eco Friendly	☐	☐	☐
Energy Efficient	☐	☐	☐
Be in keeping with existing village	☐	☐	☐
Limited to a maximum of two storeys	☐	☐	☐
Have a garden	☐	☐	☐
Have off street parking	☐	☐	☐
Have hyperfast fibre optic broadband and good mobile signal	☐	☐	☐
Energy efficient design is more important than being in keeping with village	☐	☐	☐

37. Where should new development be located?

Please tick one box per row

	Yes	No
Within the Settlement Boundary	☐	☐
Attached to the Settlement Boundary	☐	☐
Outside the Settlement Boundary but within the Parish	☐	☐

38. Should any new building / housing be encouraged on:

Please tick one box per row

	Yes	No
Infill sites	☐	☐
Gardens of existing properties	☐	☐
Brownfield (previously developed) sites	☐	☐
Greenfield sites	☐ go to Q39	☐ go to Q40

39. If you said "Yes" to greenfield sites being built on in Q38, should this be limited per site to:

Please tick one box per row

	Yes	No
Up to 5 properties	☐	☐
Between 6 and 10 properties	☐	☐
Between 11 and 20 properties	☐	☐
Over 20 properties	☐	☐

40. Would you support small scale renewable energy projects (wind farm, solar farm, biomass)?

Please tick one box

☐ Yes ☐ No

41. Should farmland in Stanstead Parish be used for larger development?

Please tick one box

☐ Yes (go to Q42) ☐ No (go to Q43)

42. If you said "Yes" to Q.41, what should it be used for?

Please tick one box per row

	Yes	No
Large residential use (20+ houses) covering several acres	☐	☐
Large scale wind farm / solar farm / biomass covering several acres	☐	☐
Large scale industrial units covering several acres	☐	☐

43. IF THERE ARE ANY COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE BUT HAVEN'T BEEN COVERED BY THE QUESTIONS OR WISH TO EXPAND ON ANY OF YOUR ANSWERS PLEASE DO SO HERE:

THANK YOU for completing this survey!

Please complete by Friday 8th August 2025

Completed surveys can be dropped off in the box on the front of the Community Centre any time up to this date or if you need it collected from your house please email stansteadpc@gmail.com or call Gail on 07961 942227

NEXT STEP

A **feedback event** will be arranged to inform everyone of the results from this survey and other background work that has been carried out, together with any implications and recommendations for the Stanstead Neighbourhood Plan.