

Sustainable Thornbury response to request for ideas concerning the SOUTH GLOUCESTESHIRE POLICIES, SITES AND PLACES PLAN

We have before been involved at the development stage of plans and would be willing to continue this role in this instance if requested.

Response:

In developing this plan we would like the Council to:

- Allocate areas suitable for renewable energy generation and specifically designate areas for wind farms
- Promote and assist local communities to generate their own energy
- Make community energy generation a requirement in all new developments
- Require all new developments, both housing and others, to be highly energy efficient
- Ensure provision of wildlife corridors in all new developments
- Preserve and promote land for growing food locally, both small-scale (eg allotments in all new housing areas) and larger-scale to increase local resilience in food production
- Ensure that all high-grade agricultural land is protected for agriculture
- Consider allocating land for 'starter farms' to provide opportunities for young people to work in horticulture and farming
- Require developers to allocate land for self-build housing in all new housing developments, in addition to the provision of affordable housing
- Preserve and protect the local environment by placing a moratorium on fracking and other forms of gas extraction in South Gloucestershire; or, at a minimum, impose strict environmental conditions
- Encourage more (and safer) cycling by developing Thornbury's streamside walks into ones which can safely be used by both pedestrians and cyclists.
- Provide a safe all-seasons pedestrian and cycle route between Thornbury and Alveston
- In addition to defining Town Centres, define sites for convenience shopping and services, particularly in new developments
- Adopt the Building for Life Standards
- Improve community interaction by trialing provision of car-free (ie limited access) High Streets eg in Thornbury making some Saturdays car-free

Brett Harrison, Secretary, Sustainable Thornbury