

2 | The wider context

Sustainable communities

In 2003 the government set out a long term programme for bringing about improvements to the places where people live. This programme is designed to strengthen the links between work, leisure and home by creating what are called sustainable communities. These are defined as:

“ . . . places where people want to live and work now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.”

The sustainable communities programme lists a number of specific components that the government suggest are essential if a community is to be sustainable. They are:

Active, inclusive and safe

Fair, tolerant and cohesive with a strong local culture and other shared community activities

Environmentally sensitive

Providing places that are considerate of the environment in which people can live

Well designed and built

Featuring a high quality built and natural environment with homes that people can afford

Well connected

With good public transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services

Thriving

With a flourishing and diverse local economy

Well served

With public, private, community and voluntary services that are appropriate to people's needs and accessible to all

Fair for everyone

Including those in other communities, now and in the future

Well run

With effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership

During the development of the Salisbury Vision it became very clear that the people of Salisbury consider these same components to be most important to them. They affect the way we live and they define what people want Salisbury to stand for.



Climate change

Climate change has been described as the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. As temperatures rise across the world our weather changes; sea levels rise and the frequency of extreme weather patterns increases. This is a worldwide phenomenon and it affects the UK as much as it does anywhere else in the world.

The world climate has been changing naturally over very long periods of time. This is not a problem; the earth can cope with this pace of change. Climate change is, however, being accelerated by our activity – through the creation of greenhouse gases by the burning of fossil fuels for energy, by cutting down great forests for agriculture, by air travel, and as we are continually reminded even by simply driving in our cars. It is this that is causing the problem and it is this that we can do something about.

For more information on climate change and to find out what you can do to make a difference visit www.climatechallenge.gov.uk

Internationally governments are agreeing that urgent action is needed to stop or slow down this change before even more irrevocable damage is done to the earth. The Kyoto protocol, a 15-year agreement signed in 1997 committed countries to take action on climate change. In December 2007 delegates from nearly 200 nations attended a United Nations Climate Change conference in Bali. The result of this meeting was a global agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emissions and on negotiating a new agreement to succeed the Kyoto protocol.

In the UK the government is introducing a Climate Change Bill, which sets out a new approach to managing and responding to climate change. But it is not just governments that must take action. Local authorities, large businesses and individuals all have a part to play. In common with many other local authorities Salisbury District Council has signed The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. By doing so the council has pledged to actively tackle climate change in south Wiltshire and to work with others to reduce emissions country-wide.



To find out more about The Nottingham Declaration visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

In a document that looks at the future it is only right that climate change should feature strongly. Within the Salisbury Vision there are dozens of initiatives that if implemented have the potential to damage the environment and add to climate change. Each initiative also has the potential to have a positive impact on the environment and thereby contribute to a slow down in the rate of climate change. Tackling climate change is a fundamental part of the Salisbury Vision.

Our promise

When delivering the Salisbury Vision we will try to ensure that every project is designed, planned and implemented in such a way that it contributes to an improvement in the quality of life for the residents of Salisbury and that it has the minimum negative impact on the environment. We will always try to make sure that everything we do benefits the local community and that, over time, it helps us reduce our carbon footprint to zero. In this way the Salisbury Vision will make a positive contribution to community cohesion and to tackling climate change, by creating a sustainable Salisbury community.

