The ‘Doughnut’ is a simple visualisation of the challenges of delivering a better future: meeting the basic needs of all citizens while ensuring that we avoid overshooting planetary boundaries.
THE CHALLENGES FOR THE STRETTONS

Endless economic growth is unsustainable on a finite planet. By dialling down our seemingly insatiable demand for more and more stuff, and by sharing resources, we can learn how to thrive within limits and in balance with the environment and our fellow human beings. In the context of climate breakdown, biodiversity loss and global food insecurity, Strettons Doughnut Group present these challenges to the community.

Facts about The Strettons

- The carbon footprint of the Strettons is higher than the average for both Shropshire and the UK as a whole. It shows particularly in transport and the consumption of goods and services (Centre for Sustainable Energy, 2023).
- Over 80% of the Strettons population live in households of 1 or 2 people, but 65% of properties are of 3 bedrooms or above (2021 census).
- The Strettons have the highest proportion of over 65s in Shropshire. There are fewer children of school age, compared to the rest of the County, and fewer of working age.
- 77% of Shropshire schools are concerned children may be going hungry at home whilst 20% of Year 6 pupils in Shropshire are obese and 66% of adults in Shropshire are classed as overweight or obese.
- Health and Social Care issues are of huge concern to an elderly population. Lack of access to treatment and operations is driving patients with resources towards private health provision. Caring for the elderly and infirm is a major concern for families.
- Loneliness affects almost a quarter of the UK population. Many studies demonstrate the link between loneliness and poor physical and mental health.
- The UK has lost almost half of its biodiversity since the 1970s through loss of habitat to commercial farming and construction. 15% of our species are threatened with extinction.
- Only 46% of rural businesses receive decent 4G coverage, restricting options for many firms.
- The amount of waste produced by Shropshire households is above the UK average.
- The average car or van in England is driven just 4% of the time, a figure that has barely changed in quarter of a century. 40% and 50% of car journeys are under two miles.
VISION FOR ENERGY

For the Strettons to produce more energy and reduce its consumption footprint to below the national average

What is needed:

>> 1. To produce more clean energy locally, particularly with solar panels

>> 2. To reduce energy use through efficiencies and retrofitting

>> 3. To promote the little known £7,500 grant to switch to air/ground source heat pumps

>> 4. To highlight the carbon cost of flying and encourage behavior change to limit flying

>> 4. To campaign for a frequent flyer levy

>> 6. To demonstrate what is meant by “living sustainably”
VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY

For the Strettons to endorse the recent global Biodiversity Framework

What is needed:

1. Work with the council aiming for 30% of public land to be managed for biodiversity

2. To engage with landowners and farmers to encourage regenerative farming, the restoration of hedgerows and space for wildlife

3. Encourage all gardeners to leave a ‘wild corner’ of their garden for nature

4. Extend the work of Restoring Shropshire Verges Project throughout the Strettons

5. To link with other projects, nature reserves, Stepping Stones, National Landscape

6. Develop nature recovery plans for each of the Strettons
**Vision for Housing**

*Decent, affordable, energy efficient and safe housing for all*

**What is needed:**

1. To support the creation of a local Community Land Trust to develop genuinely affordable social housing

2. To support the re-introduction of council-owned social housing for the rental market

3. To campaign for the highest levels of energy efficiency in new developments

4. To support examples of excellence in eco homes and Passiv houses

4. To support priority development of smaller 1-2 bedroom properties
VISION FOR HEALTH

A healthy population with a ‘wrap-around’ health, care and well-being service

What is needed:

>> 1. To work with Mayfair, the Stretton Medical Practice and dental surgeries to promote primary health care

>> 2. To support healthy lifestyles such as walking, cycling and good diet in the community

>> 3. To work with schools in establishing good habits for life

>> 4. To campaign for the integration of health and social care

>> 5. To highlight the shortfall in NHS dental provision

>> 6. To champion a National Health Service true to its roots

>> 7. To challenge politicians and councillors over inadequate funding and staffing provision
VISION FOR FOOD

A resilient community championing regenerative farming, sustainable supplies and a healthy diet

What is needed:

>>> 1. To share knowledge, ideas and examples of good practice within local networks

>>> 2. To encourage good dietary habits through work with schools and local youth groups to introduce the ‘Eat and Learn’ Initiative

>>> 3. To champion ‘Right to Grow’

>>> 4. To work with allotments and gardening clubs to introduce a ‘Grow and Share’ programme

>>> 5. To promote a healthy diet through work with Medical Practice and Mayfair to introduce a ‘Community Eatwell’ programme

>>> 6. To campaign to reduce food waste through a ‘What’s in my bin?’ campaign
What is needed:

1. To signpost opportunities to improve digital literacy and information

2. To support access to the latest connectivity opportunities from suppliers and government

3. To support free access to broadband services at all village community centres

4. To support free access for households on benefits

5. To survey populace to determine levels of digital literacy

6. To establish a programme of digital education
VISION FOR SOCIAL NETWORKS

No one feels alone and unsupported

What is needed:

>> 1. To develop a county-wide transport strategy that brings people together

>> 2. To develop the use of village halls as spaces for networking and the promotion of neighbourliness

>> 3. To promote the intelligent use of social media to build networks

>> 4. To create more community spaces, such as community gardens/orchards, with seats and benches to allow people space to socialise

>> 5. Encourage more events and activities in rural areas
VISION FOR POLITICAL VOICE

A high level of engagement, promoting a strong sense of working democracy

What is needed:

>> 1. To campaign for a fair voting system and, in the meantime, to encourage tactical voting

>> 2. To pilot methods of deliberative democracy to address issues of concern

>> 3. To campaign for a ‘Future Generations’ perspective in all deliberations, policies and actions

>> 4. To establish a Youth Forum

>> 5. To encourage a wide range of residents, including Doughnut supporters, to stand in town council and local elections

>> 6. To use local forums and all channels of media – including social media – to campaign for the Doughnut vision of a ‘safe and just space for humanity’

>> 7. Ask all candidates to respond to the Doughnut challenges
VISION FOR TRANSPORT

To prioritise a low carbon and integrated transport infrastructure

What is needed:

>> 1. To promote an integrated, low-cost public transport network, with regular services to all households in the Strettons and outlying settlements

>> 2. To pilot free public transport on certain routes

>> 3. To create a pedestrian- and cycle-friendly environment with appropriate car-free areas, cycle routes and secure cycle storage

>> 4. To promote a 20 mph speed limit throughout the Strettons.

>> 5. To promote cargo bike services and electric vans for delivering most items for local businesses and households

>> 6. To develop a car sharing club
What are we aiming to do?

- Develop practical proposals for The Strettons based on ‘Localising the Doughnut’
- Create coherent policies and targets that recognise the rights of future generations
- Identify metrics that can be used to measure progress
- Daring to imagine a different future for The Strettons!

Find out more about how we might make the Doughnut work for everyone in The Strettons, come along to our regular Doughnut Cafes or check out our website.

www.strettondoughnut.org