

Taunton Garden Town: Stewardship

Shadow Taunton
Town Council
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Alison Blom-Cooper
Assistant Director
Strategic Place and
Planning

Jenny Clifford
Garden Town
Implementation Manager



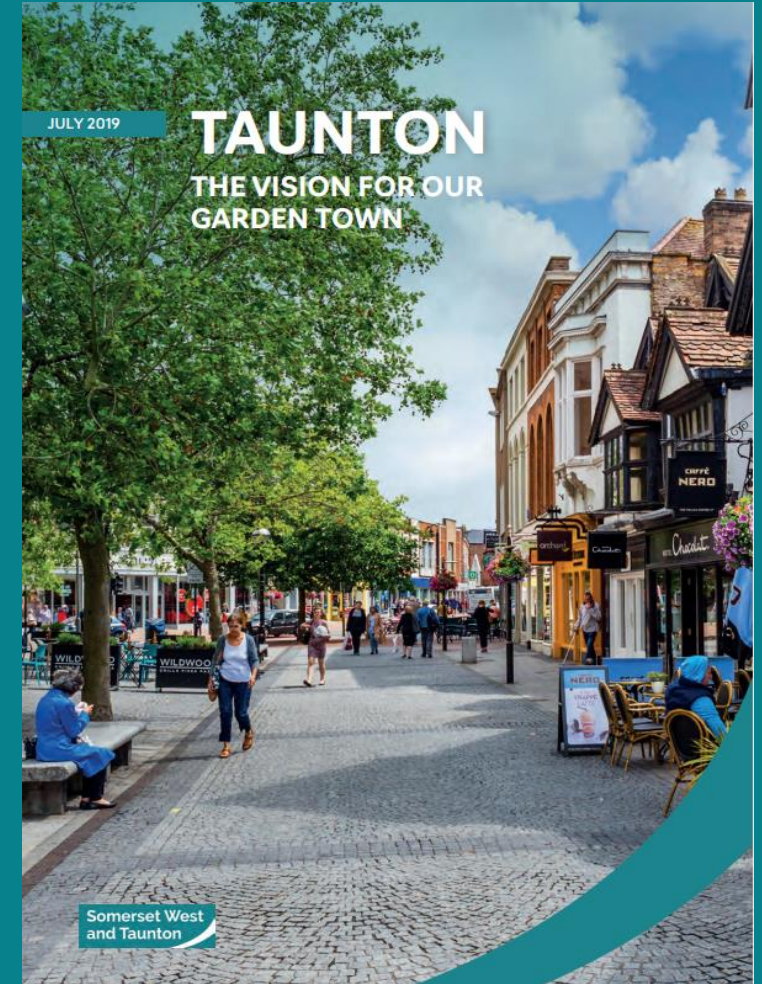
Somerset West
and Taunton



Somerset West
and Taunton

Stewardship

- Explore the concept of stewardship and its context in Taunton Garden Town
- Outline some of the opportunities for stewardship in Taunton Garden Town
- Key questions for the Shadow Town Council meeting to consider



What is stewardship?

A key Garden Community Principle:

“ensuring that a community asset is properly looked after in perpetuity”.

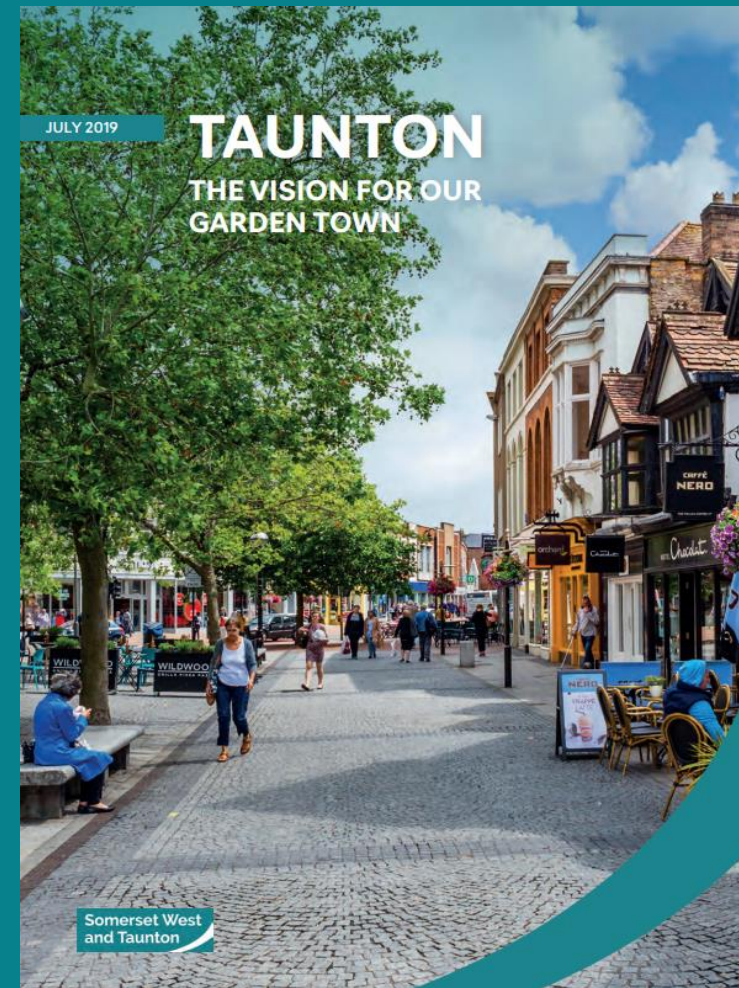
*Town & Country Planning
Association*

Community assets

Asset	Typical Existing Arrangements
Active Travel	Somerset County Council
Community Spaces	Existing parish councils / Charities
Open Space/ Green Space	Management Companies for specific sites / Somerset West and Taunton Council for some spaces
Indoor Facilities	Everyone Active
Outdoor Facilities	Local Authority / Everyone Active
Decentralised Energy	Community Managed
SuDs	Somerset County Council
Flood Defences	The Environment Agency / Somerset County Council
Education facilities	Somerset County Council and free school providers

Stewardship

- “Promote and encourage individuals, communities and partner organisations to collaborate broadly, empowering them to take initiatives and share in the long-term **stewardship** of green assets.”
- “Legacy and **stewardship** arrangements: should be in place for the care of community assets, infrastructure and public realm, for the benefit of the whole community.”
- “Communities and stakeholders should take an active role in realising the vision from project identification through to delivery, for which the Council will take an active role to establish new governance arrangements for the Garden Town which will incorporate new and innovative ways to encourage **community participation**.”



Objectives and principles

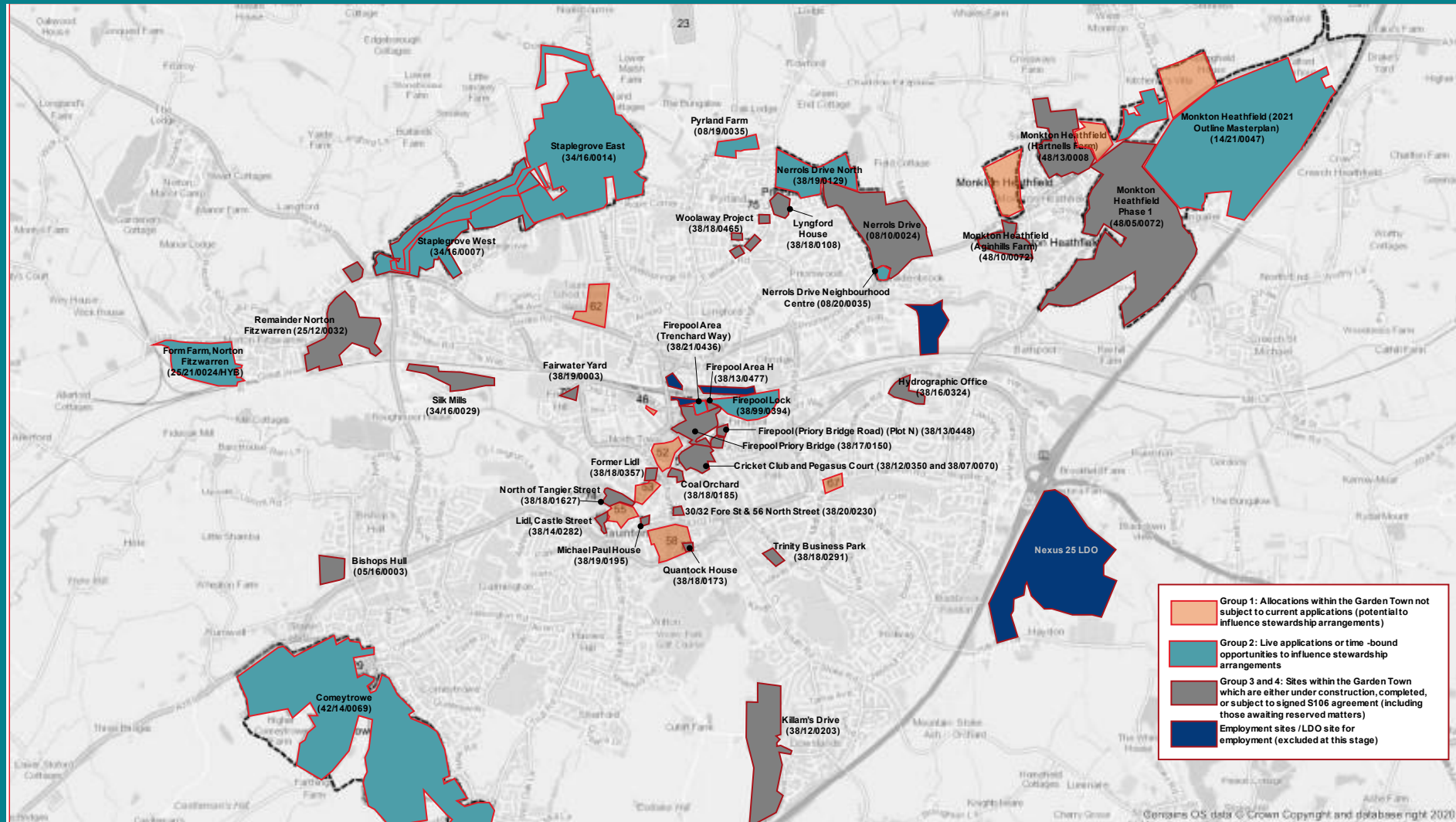
Objectives: setting the intended outcome:

- The community will have a stronger connection with the natural environment (accessible, nutrient neutral and biodiverse green spaces and assets).
- Inclusive, safe and accessible active travel and connections to public transport will be promoted and maximised.
- The community will feel empowered, involved and have a sense of ownership.
- Multi-use community assets will be maintained and enhanced to support social cohesion and interaction between existing and new neighbourhoods.
- Multi-use community assets will be maintained and enhanced to improve wellbeing, foster inclusivity and reduce inequalities.
- Economic participation, ability to experience high-quality culture and skills development of residents will be encouraged through learning and training.
- All decisions will contribute towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and be climate resilient.

Principles: defining the operational path

- Uphold the objectives of stewardship and ensure decisions are made in the long-term public interest.
- Be an effective, credible and respected custodian of assets.
- Be financially sustainable.
- Enable long term resilience (a flexible, adaptable and entrepreneurial approach).
- Access to suitable skills and expertise.
- Promote and encourage collaboration (individuals, communities and partner organisations).
- Encourage community participation and representation.
- Deepen awareness and knowledge of the benefits of successful stewardship.
- Transparent monitoring and accountability.

Stewardship opportunities



Stewardship opportunities: time limited

Live planning application

Staplegrove East

Nerrols North & neighbourhood centre

Pyrland Farm

Monkton Heathfield phase 2 & remaining area

Ford Farm, Norton Fitzwarren

Masterplan in development

Firepool

CIL infrastructure delivery

Comeytrove & Trull

Open space management subject to S106

Staplegrove West

Within the new Taunton Town Council area

Potential stewardship models



Shortlisted models for consideration

- Local Council model- including Taunton Town Council and existing Parish Councils
- The Land Trust (a form of Development Trust)- already operates at scales equivalent to the Garden Town
- Community Interest Company- through its commitment to the wider 'community interest' and statutory requirements for an 'asset lock' (governance and regulation). Assumed this would be a stand alone entity and not a wholly owned, arms length body of the Council
(Case studies for each considered)



Types of assets

Existing asset transfer

Allotments

Phase 1 assets:

- Parks
- WCs

Phase 2+

- Assets to be confirmed

New asset opportunities

All open space

Community halls

Active travel routes

Verges & street furniture

Public art

Sustainable Urban Drainage

Key questions for the Shadow Taunton TC

1. Is there interest in Taunton Town Council taking on the long term management and maintenance of new community assets created from development?
2. If yes, what types of asset should be considered?
3. All sites or just some?
4. Is there interest in exploring a possible role for the Land Trust (for open space assets)?

