

Stowey Green Spaces Group

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<https://stowey.org.uk/stowey-green-spaces/>



CONSTITUTION, including Equal Opportunities and Safeguarding Policies

1 Overall objectives of the Stowey Green Spaces Group (SGSG)

- a) In partnership with like-minded organisations, maintain and wherever possible enhance the "green" areas in and around Nether Stowey and Over Stowey, with particular focus on Stowey Millennium Wood (including Diamond and Platinum Jubilee extensions), Stowey Wood, Castle Mount and the Stowey A39 Bypass Wood.
- b) Ensure that public footpaths leading to and through the areas which SGSG manage are kept in good condition.
- c) Take a role in building awareness, educating residents and visitors at the local level about the natural environment and introducing the countryside to people who may be hesitant to 'use' it because of unfamiliarity with countryside practice.
- d) Take on local projects to achieve the above objectives.
- e) Keep public areas and roadsides in and around Nether and Over Stowey clear of litter, in liaison with Sedgemoor Clean Surroundings Team.
- f) Gather and catalogue information on the natural environment.
- g) Engage with local schools - the next generations - to achieve the above objectives.
- h) Liaise and work with Nether and Over Stowey Parish Councils, Quantock Hills National Landscape, Somerset Council, voluntary organisations and others on green space issues.

2 Background

The Stowey Green Spaces Group began in late 2016 as a sub-committee of the Recreation Ground. It has since become an independently constituted community organisation that has developed to cover the green spaces of the surrounding areas and linking routes between them to maximise community interest in, and introduce visitors to, our wider surroundings.

Members of SGSG manage Stowey Wood and Stowey Millennium Wood with its Diamond Jubilee Extension for the benefit of wildlife and the community under licence from Somerset Council. Stowey Wood and the Millennium/Diamond Jubilee Woods are 'Assets of Community Value'.

We very much welcome new participants.

3 Governance

- a) Membership: - Membership is open to anyone who supports the SGSG Constitution's overall objectives.
- b) Committee: - The Group will be managed by a committee of at least 3 members, including Chair, Treasurer and Minutes Secretary. Committee members will be elected annually at the AGM.
- c) Meetings and decision making: - The committee will meet at least 10 times a year. A minimum of 3 members must be present to make decisions that will be by a majority vote with the Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- d) Finances: - The Group will have a bank account in its name with at least 2 unrelated signatories. Accurate records of income and expenditure will be kept and a financial report presented at each meeting. All funds must be used to support the Group's purpose and in the event of dissolution of the Group any remaining funds will be given to a similar community organisation.

4 Equal Opportunities Policy

We are committed to treating all people equally and with respect irrespective of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

(Continued overleaf)

5 Safeguarding Policy

a) Policy Statement

Stowey Green Spaces Group is a small, volunteer-led community organisation dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the green spaces in and around Nether and Over Stowey. We are committed to ensuring that everyone who engages with our group - volunteers, members of the public, and especially vulnerable people (including children and adults at risk) - are treated with respect, dignity, and care.

Although we do not work directly with children or vulnerable adults as part of our activities, we recognise our duty to safeguard anyone we may come into contact with during those activities.

b) Scope: - This policy applies to all volunteers involved in Stowey Green Spaces Group. It covers all activities organised by the group.

c) Principles: - All individuals, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to be protected from harm, abuse, and neglect.

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Volunteers should act appropriately and report any concerns without delay.
- Definitions of abuse can be found within the following websites: [Information for the public \(somensetsafeguardingadults.org.uk\)](http://Information for the public (somensetsafeguardingadults.org.uk)) and <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/briefings/definitions-signs-child-abuse>
- All our coordinators are aware of this Policy
- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead undergoes safeguarding training to keep up to date with requirements.

d) Volunteer Responsibilities: - All volunteers agree to:

- Treat everyone with respect and kindness.
- Work in pairs or groups when in contact with members of the public, particularly if children or vulnerable adults are present.
- Be careful of any physical contact unless necessary (e.g. in an emergency).
- Avoid being alone with a child or vulnerable person whenever possible.
- Not engage in any behaviour that could be misinterpreted or could put themselves or others at risk.

e) Children and Vulnerable Adults

- Children remain the responsibility of their parent, guardian, or carer at all times during our activities.
- Volunteers will not take responsibility for supervising children or vulnerable adults.
- Any group activities involving children or vulnerable adults must have their parents or carers present.
- If a volunteer has a concern about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult, they must report it as outlined below.

f) Reporting Concerns: - Any safeguarding concern must be reported immediately to the group's Safeguarding Lead or Deputy. If anyone is in immediate danger, call 999.

Safeguarding Lead: Roy Osborne, contact number: 07414 465471, Email: vivroy1@outlook.com

Deputy lead: Paul Brierley, contact number: 01278 732574, Email: buddleia@hotmail.com

In the absence of the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy, contact the relevant local authority safeguarding team:

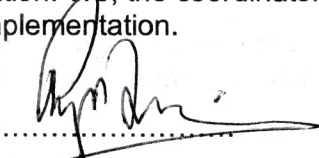
- Somerset Council Safeguarding Team: phone: 0300 123 2224
Website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/health-safety-and-wellbeing/safeguarding/>

g) Dealing with Disclosures or Incidents: - If someone discloses a safeguarding concern to a volunteer:

- Listen carefully and do not judge.
- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Record the facts and report them as soon as possible to the Safeguarding Lead.

h) Review and Updates: This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to any incident or changes in legislation or best practice.

i) Declaration: We, the coordinators of Stowey Green Space Group, adopt this policy and are committed to its implementation.

Signed: 

Name: Roy Paul Osborne

Role: Chairperson

Date: 7 May 2026

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