
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE MARCH 2017

Why not walk?

We hear an increasing number of complaints relating to parking outside the Co-op/Huddle/school. Whilst there will always be an occasional need for someone reading this to drive, given the short distances involved it does seem to be a missed opportunity that more of us don't take the opportunity to walk there. According to www.nhs.uk regular walking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, stroke and some cancers. We have many beautiful areas throughout the village, so why not spend just a couple of minutes extra and walk instead?

Dog Walking

At odds with the above, it would seem that the dog walkers amongst you are out in force. Whilst most take care of the environment and clean up after their pet, there seems to be a handful of owners who are happy to ignore whatever their dog leaves behind. Not only is it disgusting and a health risk to everyone else, you can be fined. Anyone observing a dog owner not clearing up after their pet is encouraged to report the matter to env.health@southandvale.gov.uk / 01235 422403, with details and anything that might help to identify the individual.

On-street Parking

Of course, if you must drive please be considerate towards other vehicles, pedestrians and neighbouring properties when parking. Obstructing entrances, disabled bays and dropped kerbs for pedestrians should be avoided.

Crocus bulbs and Community Woodland

It's been great to see the newly planted crocus bulbs flowering on Church Green, outside the entrance to the war memorial, following the donation of the bulbs by Faringdon & District Rotary Club last year. Unfortunately, "Ash Dieback" has been identified within the community woodland, and we have managed to secure replacement of these trees with a mixture of broadleaf species. We've also been fortunate to receive some beech saplings for the community woodland from a resident who's recently moved into the village.

Archaeological Test Pitting

In line with previous work undertaken around the village, the Parish Council is pleased to be supporting new test pits on Upper Green during March, which will assist with building a better understanding of Stanford's rich history.

Unitary Council

Oxfordshire County Council and a number of District Councils are continuing to review options around creating a single Unitary Authority, which would ultimately replace the existing organisations. It remains to be seen what impact this will have on local services, but we are closely following the process.

Parish Council vacancy

As reported last time, we have a vacancy on the Parish Council – we hope that this will be filled at our next meeting on 5th April, but if you are interested, then please contact the Clerk, Mike Dew, without delay.

Peter Lewis

Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
plewis.sitv@gmail.com



Thames Valley Police: Thefts from Vehicles at Beauty Spots Crime Reduction Advice

Unfortunately we have had a spate of beauty spot thefts in our area. Beauty spots attract thieves due to visitors leaving valuables in their vehicles unattended. To try and reduce incidents in your area, consider the following:

- Try to park in sign-posted parking areas.
- Be cautious about parking your car in isolation. Thieves can be put off when other people are around.
- Do not leave anything in your vehicle. A jacket or coat left behind may be of very little value to you, but a thief may think it has been used to hide a laptop or handbag and will break into your vehicle to find out.
- Take items with you rather than locking them in the boot, you can't be sure who has seen you.

- Before you leave home, think about what you need and leave any unnecessary items of value at home.
- Make sure you do not leave documents which have your personal details on in your vehicle.
- Do not leave your sat-nav in your vehicle and don't forget to remove the cradle and wipe the sucker marks from your windscreen.
- Remember to shut all windows and sunroofs and lock all doors. Activate the alarm and immobiliser.
- Make use of any security products you might have such as steering locks.
- Whilst enjoying the sights make sure you keep your bag and possessions with you.
- Remain vigilant – report any suspicious people or behaviour.



Thames Valley Police: Action Fraud Alert

Top eight tips on cash card security

1. Use cash machines during the daytime if possible. It is best to use a well-lit cashpoint. Avoid dimly-lit and deserted areas.
2. Make sure that you put your card and cash away quickly – don't keep them on display.
3. Never write down your Personal Identification Number (PIN).
4. Keep cards and cheque books separately.
5. Note down your debit and credit card details so that you can cancel them quickly if they're stolen or lost.
6. When using cash machines, always make sure nobody can see you typing your PIN – cover your hand with your free hand.
7. If you think a machine has been tampered with, call the police on 101 as soon as possible to report it. We will need to know why you think the machine has been tampered with and the location of the machine. Do not try to remove the device.
8. If a machine has taken your card, call your card issuer immediately.

Neighbourhood Plan Report April 2017

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee of the Parish Council are continuing to work towards producing The Neighbourhood Development Plan. We are currently collating all the evidence you have provided from consultations to form the policies which need to be sustainable and sit alongside the developing Local Plan of the District Council.

We have also spent time responding to the Strategic Site (West of A417) planning applications ensuring your views are put to the developers and the District Planning Authority so that the development includes as many improvements as possible at the early planning stages.

Despite many people wishing to see the school remain in its current location, we need to consider alternative sites for education purposes, ensuring that a new primary school can be built if the present site is not able to expand, either now or at some time in the future. The County Council has still not decided if expansion is possible and we await the publication of their feasibility study on this subject.

To assist our collation of evidence on the environment a number of parishioners have formed SWAT-Stanford Wildlife Assessment Team. We very much appreciate the active support of this group of enthusiastic volunteers. This important work will provide a sound foundation of evidence supporting the conservation of green spaces in and around the village.

Peter Gill, Richard Ryan, Sue Murrin, Rosemary Packer, Roger Griffin, Janet Warren and Hadyn Wood

Better Oxfordshire

Over the last year or so the County Council and the District and City Councils had both been considering unitary councils but in different schemes. In the end, although there had been some initial enthusiasm for 3 unitary authorities in Oxfordshire, it became apparent that this would not be acceptable.

Oxfordshire County Council announced a 'One Oxfordshire' proposal in January. Since then both the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council have been working to improve on this proposal and eventually produced a document 'A New Council for A Better Oxfordshire'. This gave better local accountability, better scope for savings and better infrastructure.

All three councils have now approved this document to go forward as a bid to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

The full document can be found on the Vale website.

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

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Local Plan part 2

The Local Plan part 1 past its examination and was adopted by the Vale of White Horse Council last December. Part 1 looked at Strategic Sites and

Policies, one of the strategic sites for over 200 homes was in Stanford.

Now we have to move on and consult on part 2 of the local plan that will look at additional development sites, primarily to address Oxford's unmet housing need, and detailed policies under the headings of Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities, Supporting Economic Prosperity, Supporting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility, and Protecting the Environment and Responding to Climate Change.

There are no new development sites suggest for the Western area of the Vale, which includes Stanford, in part 2 of the plan.

The consultation runs for eight weeks from March 9th 2017 until May 4th and can be viewed and accessed on the council website.

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LPP2

£5 swim offer for residents age 60 plus

If you are age 60 and over, living outside a market town, then make use of this great Spring swim offer to try out a leisure pool near you.

Most residents living in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse can reach a pool within about 20 minute drive time, but taking that first step to try out swimming can be hard. To make it easier, GO Active Gold, in partnership with Better Leisure Centres, are offering unlimited swimming for £5 during April 2017 to residents age 60 plus living in rural villages.

GO Active Gold is a Sport England funded project, encouraging people living in rural areas age 60 and over to become more active by setting up activities local to them.

Research shows that as you get older, you're far more likely to become inactive: 42 per cent of people aged 55 and over are inactive compared to 29 per cent of the population as a whole.

Swimming is an ideal workout for the elderly, mainly because it presents little risk of injury and is low impact. Swimming also develops strong and stable core muscles, which are necessary for good balance control — a major protective factor against falls.

Make sure you don't miss out on this offer by registering your place before Saturday 1 April 2017, just call 01235 422226 or complete the online registration form on our website: www.getoxfordshireactive.org/go-active-gold.

Once you have registered, visit your local leisure pool during April. Your one month swim offer will start from the date of your first swim.

Vale of White Horse District - Participating pools include:

Wantage Leisure Centre,

Faringdon Leisure Centre,
White Horse Leisure Centre

Faringdon Neighbourhood update: 'You said we did'

At a recent NAG 1 (Neighbourhood Action Group) meeting, concerns have been raised regarding road safety on the A420. During March and April, the Faringdon Police Team will be carrying out a Road Safety Operation led by PC Trevor Gorman. This operation will focus on, seat belts, mobile phone use and speeding. Please be aware of the law changes that came into force on 1st March. Drivers caught using handheld mobile phones will receive a £200 penalty and 6 points on their licence.

Safe and Well visits from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Did you know that Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service offer free Safe and Well Visits? Our firefighters will visit you at home to see what they can do to help you reduce the risk of fire.

What does a visit cover? It combines a Home Safety Check to help reduce the risk of fire in your home, such as checking and fitting smoke alarms and helping you make a fire escape plan.

During the visit firefighters are able to provide advice and support to reduce any immediate risk from falls, fire, flood or power cuts. They can also provide advice on health and crime prevention too.

You can request a visit online at www.365alive.co.uk/safewell or call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999. If a loved one or friend would benefit from a visit please let them know about our Safe and Well visits.

Do you have a fire safety concern or question? There's lots of great tips and advice to help keep you and your family safer at home on www.365alive.co.uk. Or you can call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999.

Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service

Mike Dew (Clerk)	-	01367 710387
Cllr. Amanda Bailey	-	07777 691336
Cllr. Peter Gill	-	01367 718224
Cllr. Mark Isaacs	-	01367 718719
Cllr. Simon Jackson	-	07979 917001
Cllr. Tina Jenkins	-	07443 906150
Cllr. Nona Lewis	-	01367 710779
Cllr. Peter Lewis (Chair) plewis.sitv@gmail.com	-	01367 710166
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