
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE September 2020

Our last newsletter was written and went to press what seems like a lifetime ago, in early March before we were all subjected to the many and varied restrictions that the Government have introduced. You will have been aware that all of our playgrounds and recreation facilities were closed by these regulations but were re-opened as soon as we were able to do so safely. Whilst not what any of us wanted to see happen, we really appreciate the vast majority of you who complied with these restrictions. Whilst the facilities have re-opened it is clearly impossible for us to sanitise shared equipment in an outdoor setting, so please do ensure that you, your family and friends are following the latest advice at all times.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I'd like to pass on our sincere thanks to Darren Rolls and his family who were instrumental in implementing the various closures to our facilities as the guidance emerged and changed. I would also like to pass on my personal thanks to Cllr. Simon Jackson and Steve Willis who arranged for the Heras fencing needed at a moments notice and at no cost to the village.

Equally, a huge debt of thanks is owed to Cllrs. Janet Warren and Karin Williams-Cuss who arranged the co-ordination of the local Covid-19 support scheme, to assist those self-isolating, or unable to leave their homes. Central to this effort were the tens of volunteers who came forward, many impulsively, some who'd only recently moved into the village – thank you one and all for your sterling efforts which enabled us to appoint someone to cover every street. Finally, my personal thanks to our then vice-chair Cllr. Janet Warren who had the dubious honour of co-ordinating all of our initial efforts with me by video link whilst I was stuck some 6,000+ miles away!

Aside from this, we've been working with a number of local organisations to ensure that they were able to access the relevant support made available to them via the various HM Government schemes. Meanwhile, Council business has continued throughout the pandemic, with video meetings replacing our usual gatherings, once we were legally permitted to do so.

Footpaths

We are currently working on replacing the bridleway bridge that crosses from Cottage Road to the proposed QEII recreation field and hope to have this

in place before the end of the year – permissions, equipment and labour permitting! We have also been working with landowners and OCC to try and secure some improvements to a number of stiles and bridges to the south of the river Ock.

QEII Recreation Field Update

We have appointed a number of specialist contractors to assist with the formal landscaping and drainage as well as the "Options Appraisal" all of which we require to accompany the formal planning and funding applications which we hope to have underway in the very near future.

Strategic Site Development

Works on-site are now clearly established, and we've been working to minimise wider impacts from noise etc. with the developers.

Thames Water

We continue to try, albeit somewhat unsuccessfully to date, to obtain sensible answers from Thames Water in relation to their latest and ongoing roadworks along Bow Road.

Low/night flying

We have also attempted to liaise with RAF Benson regarding some alternative routes for their helicopter sorties, particularly the low level after dark exercises. We fully appreciate the importance of their training, but it would seem to be reasonable to rotate the routes/destinations more than has been experienced of late. We're officially "too far" from the base in order to discuss at a local level, and so are now having to liaise with the Ministry of Defence.

Peter Lewis

Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
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The Parish Council would like to thank Justin Riggs for his time and effort in repairing the footbridge on his land, which has enhanced access to the countryside and helps to keep the local footpaths open for us all to use. And just as a general reminder, while many of us want to enjoy the many beautiful walks around our village, please be considerate by sticking to the marked paths, keeping dogs on a lead in fields with animals and taking any litter home with you.

Important update on testing in Oxfordshire

We've been made aware of a worrying trend of people turning up at our hospitals in Oxfordshire, asking to be tested for Covid-19. This is possibly as a result of the national issue with testing capacity, where people have struggled to book a test online. We are therefore supporting our NHS and Public Health colleagues in pushing out the extremely important message that people with symptoms must NOT go to a hospital. Testing does not take place in hospital settings and by turning up people are putting extra strain on resources by having to turn people away and also potentially putting vulnerable people at risk.

The other key message is to only book a test if you're displaying symptoms. You can book a test by calling 119 or by registering online via gov.uk/getting-tested-for-coronavirus.

Covid-19 news from Local Government Association

The Government has recently announced that the NHS COVID-19 app that is currently being trialled will be launched on Thursday 24 September in England and Wales, following trials in Newham and on the Isle of Wight.

As the app will include the ability to check into venues through a QR code, we are encouraging businesses to ensure they have the NHS QR code posters displayed in a prominent place ahead of the launch. The app will allow contact tracers to track down customers in order to provide public health advice in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. Businesses who are already using their own QR system are being encouraged to switch to the NHS Test and Trace QR code.

Venues must also have an alternative check-in method in place to collect the details of any visitors or customers without the app, for example a handwritten register.

Help for residents struggling financially during Covid-19

The government has given us some emergency assistance funding to support any of our residents who are struggling financially as a result of the pandemic.

We are working closely with local information and advice centres to help us identify residents who might be in this situation and to help provide support.

If you become aware of anyone in this situation, please signpost them to one of the following:

- Citizens Advice – 0300 3309042
- Wantage Independent Advice Centre –
01235 765348

It's important we manage their expectations as there is strict criteria that residents must meet to receive support, and it's important they're aware that any support they receive is emergency support while we work with them along with other relevant agencies to put in place an ongoing package of help.

It is also worth noting that these are limited funds, which we're expected to spend by 31 October 2020 at the latest.

The Government's White Paper on planning

Don't forget – the government's consultation into its proposals to reform the planning system ends on 29 October, so make sure you get your responses in.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET?

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE
Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

Things change – but your safety is most important to us.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will test your blanket, but you will not be able to visit the test venue.

We will collect your blanket from your house, take it to be tested and then return it to your house (we will post you a plastic bag and label prior to our collection).

Testing in Oxfordshire in OCTOBER 2020
Monday 5 – Friday 9 and
Monday 19 – Friday 23

BOOKING INFORMATION:
To book your collection call **01865 895999 Option 1**
Or email: communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Logos at the bottom include: South Oxfordshire District Council, Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, ageUK, Oxfordshire Sports Ground, and Oxfordshire County Council.

Cycling support

Continuing our cycling theme for this month, we are supporting some free 'Safe Cycling' sessions taking place in Abingdon over the coming weeks for novice or nervous riders over the age of 16.

The sessions take place on the following Saturdays at 10.30am:

- 19 September
- 26 September
- 3 October
- 10 October

If you know of any residents or groups in your area that could benefit from these courses, please do share the details. They'll need to book by contacting Ashley from our Active Communities team, ashley.chapman@southoxon.gov.uk. The activities are Covid-safe and are being regularly assessed.

Comms Team
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

www.southoxon.gov.uk @southoxon

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk @whitehorsedc

Football Club Covid 19 Update

Just a public update on the Football Club position. Club closed on March 17th prior to the announced government lockdown and has remained closed ever since. We took the opportunity to replace some drains and re-carpet part of the clubroom.

Grass roots football was stopped in its tracks and only began coming back in August with training and matches allowed with numbers controlled and track and trace in place.

We are pleased to say that **FOOTBALL IS BACK.....** Football season starts 5th September with first competitive matches in the North Berks Football League

Youth (Oxfordshire Youth League) and Ladies (Thames Valley County Ladies League) starts weekend of 12th September.

We are Pleased to say we will be re-opening the clubhouse every weekend from the 19th September. Clubhouse will be open 2pm to 10pm only on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Strict Covid rules in place, entry via Front door only, Exit via Fire exit (kitchen)

We are actively trying to increase our capacity for Tables in a marquee outside...Work in progress

If you come to a match we would encourage you to maintain social distance from other spectators following government guidelines. We have provided sanitiser at entrances and exits and encourage its use. Also, Track and Trace details are required for anybody entering the clubhouse.

Some may have noticed the pitch is in particularly good fettle presently. This is largely due to football foundation grants for Pitchcare equipment which we applied for during lockdown, enabling us to purchase much more fertiliser and seed than we normally can. It's also mainly due to the stupendous efforts of John Osbourn on his shiny new tractor (when it's not broken down) and the huge amount of time spent looking after the grass.

I would remind people that the goals are locked up for a reason. They are for Footballers use only, not

casual users of the field. If you would like to use the goals, sign up for a team and attend training sessions and matches please.

All signed on players (who automatically become club members) are covered under Club Insurance for injury, losses etc. – casual users of the club's equipment are not covered.

EXERCISING OF DOGS ON THE RECREATION FIELD IS PROHIBITED.

Recently we have seen a marked increase in Dog mess all over the field. Invariably these breaches are occurring at night. We are taking measures to capture the persons and their dogs responsible on CCTV. Please expect a £1000 fine through your door if you are caught.

In the near future there will be a certain amount of tree care going on around the perimeter of the field (Parish Council contractors)

Village Wildlife

Would you like to help wildlife to flourish in our village? If so, we would like to hear from you.

Members of the parish council recently attended a series of webinars on the topic of Wild Parishes, hosted by the Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. The talks covered subjects such as how to manage verges, green spaces, hedges and woodland, and what steps parish councils can take to make our neighbourhoods friendlier to wildlife.

We are looking for volunteers who might be able to help us put what we have learnt into practice. You don't need to have any special expertise, just some time to spare and an interest in helping us make more space for nature in our local environment. If you would like to know more, please contact Kevin Middleton on 01367 718395 or at kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com.

Mike Dew (Clerk)	-	01367 710387
Cllr. Amanda Bailey	-	07777 691336
Cllr. Simon Howes		07875 249265
Cllr. Mark Isaacs	-	01367 718719
Cllr. Simon Jackson	-	07979 917001
Cllr. Tina Jenkins	-	07443 906150
Cllr. Peter Lewis (Chair) plewis.sitv@gmail.com	-	01367 710166
Cllr. Kevin Middleton	-	01367 718395
Cllr. Janet Warren	-	01367 710789
Cllr. John Williams	-	01367 710705
Cllr. Karin WilliamsCuss	-	07771 614101