
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE February 2021

A huge thank to Steve Willis who has been instrumental in loaning us the Heras Fencing needed to safeguard the dangerous ramps at the skate park. Whilst we appreciate the frustration that not all of the skate park is available, we are exploring all avenues to either repair or replace but this is being hampered by the effects of the current restrictions. It is hugely disappointing that one or more individuals think that they can simply dismantle the fencing and carry on to their hearts content.

Equally disappointing is the large collection of broken glass bottles that are being dangerously scattered across the skate park/MUGA areas. Not only do these present a danger to (primarily) younger members of the parish, they also pose a risk to our staff / volunteers having to tidy up afterwards. Graffiti has also become a growing issue over the past few months, and again, it is only thanks to dedicated volunteers that it is being swiftly removed on a near daily basis.

We've also seen a spate of damage within the community woodland, with "visitors" setting fires, destroying benches, tree stakes and the like. All of which are the result of many hours of voluntary work which is lost in a matter of minutes.

Whilst the current restrictions bring a huge amount of frustration to many of us, it seems to be the case that some individuals have too much time on their hands. It would be much better channelled into useful activities that contribute to the community rather than destroying it! I would urge parents to be very aware as to how their children are spending their "exercise" away from home, particularly if they have an interest in graffiti or come home smelling like a bonfire. If you see anyone destroying elements of the community please do challenge them, or report the matter to Thames Valley Police.

Footpaths

The replacement bridleway bridge crossing from Cottage Road into the QEII field has now been installed, and we are grateful to Oxfordshire County Council for completing this work.

Dog Mess

Not clearing up after your pet might save you a few seconds, but it can easily cause serious illness, especially for young children who should, like the rest of us, be able to make use of the greens and grass verges without even considering whether someone's dog has left deposited something unpleasant and dangerous. Whilst this is a repetitive issue during the winter months, presumably because those few irresponsible owners believe that nobody can see them/their pet, there appears to have been a significant increase in incidents this year, which given that we all need to enjoy the beauty of the outside close to home is really disappointing. Details for reporting dog owners failing to clear up can be found below and I would encourage everyone to report any incidents that they observe.

QEII Recreation Field Update

Following our report in the previous newsletter, the infiltration testing required to support the final drainage calculations has been slightly delayed but nevertheless, we hope to see this underway imminently. Once complete, the planning application can be progressed.

Strategic Site Development

As previously reported, we continue to press for the electricity contractors to return to properly reinstate the trenches crossing the A417 and Joyces Road which demonstrate very poor workmanship and are already breaking up.

Thames Water

There was some suggestion from Thames Water that the reinstatement works in Bow Road were only temporary, and whilst we cannot believe a temporary repair could possibly take so long, we are seeking their clarification on this. Additionally, we are still to receive their response in relation to the issues of their previous trench works sinking on the approach into Bow Road from the B4508.

Peter Lewis

Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
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Thank You –

We would like to thank Oxfordshire County Council for replacing the crossing at the entrance to the bridleway at the top of Cottage Road, which is also used as a popular circular walk around the land adjacent to the A417 that the Parish Council plans to develop into a new village recreation facility. The original structure had become unusable and potentially dangerous, and the new crossing preserves access both for horse riders and pedestrians to this well used path.



Use of Play Areas

Usage of our parks and green spaces is likely to rise in the next few months, particularly as the weather improves, so owners or operators of green spaces, and particularly those with children's playgrounds, should consider how to put in place measures to support the guidance such as signs to remind users of the need for social distancing in accordance with existing government guidance. i.e. when around other people, stay two metres apart from anyone not in your household - meaning the people you live with - or your support bubble.

As a guide signage should:

- promote and remind users, parents, guardians and carers of the need for social distancing.
- promote cleaning of equipment by users, parents, guardians and carers, particularly where there are clear touch points such as swing rockers, see saws, machine handles or exercise bars.
- encouraging parents to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children's hands.
- remind children not to put their mouths on equipment or their hands in their mouths.
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Useful resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>



Dog fouling

If you see a dog owner allowing their dog to foul and not picking it up, or someone deliberately dropping litter, please note down as many details as you can that might help us to identify them. You can report them.

We will need a written statement from you for our investigation that could lead to a fine or prosecution.

To avoid getting a fine, here some tips:

- never let your dog walk far from you as this makes it difficult to see when they foul
- always carry a bag when walking your dog so you can clean up. If you do not have a bag ask another dog walker if they have a spare
- encourage your dog to stay on the perimeters of fields or pitches to prevent any fouling causing harm to other people
- NB –You will be breaking the law if your dog is not wearing a collar and ID tag and is not microchipped.

Overflowing dog bins

If you spot a damaged or overflowing dog mess bin, please let us know by **completing an overflowing bin report** and we can arrange for it to be emptied by ourselves or your local town or parish council.

Contact us - Envirocrime

01235 422146

(Text phone users add 18001 before dialling)

Email: envirocrime@southandvale.gov.uk



Alert - Coronavirus

Vaccination Scams

As of 7 January 2021, Action Fraud had received 57 reports from members of the public who have been sent text messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for coronavirus vaccinations. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website.

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said:

"Remember, the vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. The NHS will never ask you for details about your bank account or to pay for the vaccine. If you receive an email, text message or phone call purporting to be from the NHS and you are asked to provide financial details, this is a scam."

How to protect yourself:

In the UK, coronavirus vaccinations will only be available via the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a local GP surgery or pharmacy, to receive your vaccination. **Remember, the vaccinations are free of charge and you will not be asked for a payment.**

The NHS will never:

- ask for your bank account or card details
- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up.

If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726, which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

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)	-	01367 710166
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Cllr. Kevin Middleton	-	01367 718395
Cllr. Janet Warren	-	01367 710789
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