
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE August 2021

Law surrounding virtual council meetings

Currently it remains illegal to hold remote council meetings, although this position is being challenged by both the Local Government Association and the National Association of Local Councils. As we said in the last parish council newsletter, we have continued to hold our meetings remotely, having concluded that, at the time of our last update, the risk to our parishioners' and councillors' health, particularly those who remain particularly vulnerable to Covid-19, was the deciding factor.

There will be no meeting in August, so our next one will be in September. When we met at the beginning of July we felt that, given the situation may change between now and then, we were not in a position to make a decision on how to proceed with September's meeting. We did however agree that the policy should be kept under review and that a decision should be taken on the format of our next meeting (whether that be in-person, virtual, or some hybrid format) closer to the time.

With that in mind, we will make a decision on how to hold our September meeting no later than one week in advance; and once the decision has been made we will publicise it on our noticeboards and website. In the meantime, we would welcome your thoughts on the format of future meetings. Above all, we want to remain as accessible and accountable to you as we can be, while also doing our part to safeguard the health of our community. If you would like to make any comments on how future meetings should be conducted, please contact any one of your councillors.

Road safety

The parish council is exploring potential measures to encourage safer driving in the village, particularly in some of the central locations, such as the area around the Co-Op and school which can become a pinch point at busy times. We are considering the introduction of some speed indicator devices that display a driver's current speed and prompt them to slow down if they are exceeding the speed limit. We'll continue to update you as our plans mature.

High Street Flooding

We are still pushing the county council for action on flooding outside the Co-Op, which we recognise is causing continued problems. Unfortunately we are somewhat in their hands as to when the problem will be rectified but we will continue to press for a resolution.

Community woodland

We now have a small team of volunteers who have offered to keep our newly-planted fruit trees watered in what will eventually become our community orchard (at the far end of the field opposite the football club, off Cottage Road). Thank you to all those who have come forward to help us with this.

Litter picking

Our thanks to W&S Recycling for organising a litter pick along the strip woodland, where the footpath runs from the A417 towards Hatford Quarry. It has been great to see more people making use of the open spaces around the village. We would, though, like to request that, where possible, you take your litter home with you. We do provide litter bins around the village and we employ a litter picker to empty them, but she can only cover a certain amount of ground every week. If you have a large amount of rubbish, you can help us keep things tidy by taking what you can away with you.

We did have an incidence of fly-tipping in the Millennium Green, where a considerable amount of DIY waste, including plasterboard, was left there. Dealing with this costs us money which leaves us with less available to spend on the community. If you do see anyone fly tipping please let one of us know or report it to the district council at: <https://bit.ly/3z92HUN>

But on a more positive note, the parish council is also helping to support a Litter Bug Detectives Trail over the summer holidays, taking place in the Joyce's Road play area, where schoolchildren can learn more about waste and recycling.

Graffiti

We regret to see that we have had some instances of offensive graffiti in the village. Some of this has already been removed by residents, for which we are grateful, and we will arrange removal of what remains. Any graffiti on roads or streets can be reported to the county council on the FixMyStreet website

(<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>)

and if you see any in progress you can report it to Thames Valley Police on the 101 non-emergency number.

Pothole reporting

For a while now the parish council has been participating in a scheme that allows trained people to report potholes in their locality to the county council for faster repair. However, we're now struggling to find the time to do this ourselves and are looking for volunteers who might be interested in doing this. You can find some background on the scheme here: <https://bit.ly/3iolK5D>. If you would like to find out more you can also contact Cllr Kevin Middleton. If there are particular potholes or other road or street defects that are causing you concern, you can currently report them via the council's FixMyStreet website:

Kevin Middleton

Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council

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Fun for all the family as splash pads in the Vale reopen in time for the summer holidays

Splash pads at Abbey Meadow in Abingdon and Wantage Memorial Park will reopen from Monday 19 July with guaranteed fun for all the family.



The reopening follows the announcement from the government that Covid-19 guidelines around social distancing will be relaxed. Vale of White Horse District Council and their leisure contractor GLL, who run the Better UK leisure facilities in the

district, had postponed the reopening of the pads as they are relatively small, and it was felt impossible to implement social distancing while they were in use.

Residents are asked to continue to be considerate to others and be mindful of safety guidelines set by GLL and the council when using the facilities. The splash pads will be maintained by GLL in Abingdon and by our in-house grounds team in Wantage. There will be increased cleaning of the splash pads to ensure that they are safe for everyone to use.

Cllr Helen Pighills, Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities at Vale of White Horse District Council said: "I know that residents have been eagerly awaiting the reopening of the splashpads in Abingdon. I'm so pleased we are able to have them ready before the start of the summer holidays for families to enjoy, especially after such a tough year."

Cllr Andrew Crawford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets at Vale of White Horse District Council said: "I am looking forward to seeing all the families enjoying themselves in Wantage this summer, I know that the splash pad is going to be very popular."

"The council parks team have been working closely with their leisure colleagues and GLL to manage the safety of both staff and our residents in assessing the right time to reopen the splash pads. With restrictions lifting from the 19 July, it feels like the right time for all to be able to enjoy the facility and remain safe at the same time."

The splash pads will be available to use from 9-6pm every day until early September.

Details of the opening times and further information about the outdoor facilities at Abbey Meadow outdoor pool and for the splash pads can be found on the Better UK app and [Abbey Meadows Outdoor Pool | Outdoor Swimming Pool in Vale of the White Horse | Better](#)

The details for Wantage can be found on our website :-

[Manor Park Memorial Gardens, Wantage - Vale of White Horse District Council \(whitehorsedc.gov.uk\)](#) .

Neighbourhood Watch

We are pleased to share with you our July newsletter –

[July OUR NEWS newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters across England and Wales | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](#)

Follow link to view.

In a world where we have become more dependent on using technology and being digitally connected, we are increasingly aware that the downside to using is the increase of scams, amounting to a staggering 41% of crime is now either on the phone or online. To help tackle this issue, we have launched a **SLING YOUR HOOK** scams awareness campaign to run on our social channels during July. Our newsletter contains more information on this campaign and a link to our website's dedicated scams section, which includes clear guidance on protecting yourself and others from becoming a victim.

On a brighter note, we have some great new partnership opportunities to share with you, including our new partnership with Deliveroo to train riders in community safety, discounts from Patlock for our members and supporters, and the chance to win a fun-filled Croods 2 inspired family vacation.

With all this and more, we hope you enjoy this month's edition.

On 10th June during Neighbourhood Watch Week, we launched a new project partnership with Deliveroo, providing their riders training to help keep communities safe across the UK. The optional training, created by Neighbourhood Watch and verified by the Metropolitan Police, will cover six topics over as many months, in the form of animated videos and simple quizzes. The partnership forms part of Deliveroo's new 'Full Life' campaign which launched last month, in which the company pledged to 'use [their] network as a force for good', and is in response for calls amongst their riders and staff to increase education in community safety. The topics are: rider vehicle safety, street harassment and female safety, domestic abuse, handling confrontation and bystander training, modern slavery and human trafficking, and county lines and drug dealing.

Alexandra Holmes, a Deliveroo rider said: "I am really pleased that Deliveroo is offering this free training for riders and hosting roundtables to discuss female safety. As a female Deliveroo rider it is really important to me that I can share my experiences with Deliveroo and personally get involved with Neighbourhood Watch in my local community."

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/news/new-deliveroo-and-neighbourhood-watch-partnership-trains-riders-keep-communities-safe>

Vale Community Impact

This is the new trading as name for Wantage Independent Advice Centre

You will find all our services are still the same.
Every resident in **Stanford in the Vale** can access all our services.

- We are still offering free **Advice** on many subjects including benefits, employment, debt and consumer.
- We are still offering **Community Transport** to residents who are in need or are elderly to access essential services.
- We are still offering **Good Neighbour Befriending** to any residents that are feeling lonely or isolated.
- We have a number of exciting **Volunteer** vacancies available across all our services.



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