



Councillor vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr Tina Jenkins, we have a vacancy for a councillor to join our dedicated team of volunteers. We are looking for someone with an interest in local affairs who is willing to represent the council and our parishioners. You will need good interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing.

Experience of working with public bodies or voluntary/community groups would be an advantage but is not essential as training will be offered. You will be expected to attend our monthly council meetings, held on the first Wednesday of the month in the evening. If you're interested in finding out more or wish to register your interest in the role, please contact our parish clerk, Claire Lewis at: clerk@stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk.

Skate Park repairs

We realise that the half-pipe and double ramp in the skate park being out of action is frustrating. The contractor that we had lined up to do the repairs is now unable to carry them out. We are looking for a replacement but inevitably this will delay things.

In the meantime, the half-pipe and double ramp remain out of bounds and should not be used, as they are potentially unsafe. Unfortunately, persistent anti-social behaviour has frustrated any efforts to fence the equipment off or mark it as out of use, even to the extent that when the fencing was secured with chains, bolt cutters were used to remove them.

Burial ground

As many of you may be aware, the churchyard is rapidly approaching capacity with only a handful of spaces remaining, and St Denys Church is therefore having to operate strict eligibility requirements for the remaining burial plots. If you, or someone you know, has a plot of land within the parish that you believe may be suitable for a future burial ground, then we would very much like to discuss the matter with you. This might be by way of a gift (or legacy) to the village. Please do contact the parish council clerk or chair if you wish to discuss this further.

Village noticeboards

You may have noticed that we now have new noticeboards at the Village Hall and the Hunters Field/High Street junction. They were funded through a Section 106 (S106) agreement, which secures money for infrastructure to support the new housing developments in the village. We are also now operating a noticeboard policy, copies of which are displayed on the boards.

Dog bins

We're aware that a number of the dog bins in the village are in a poor state of repair and several are barely fit for use. They are provided, maintained and emptied by Vale of White Horse District Council, with whom we are in touch in an attempt to arrange repairs and, where necessary, replacement.

In the meantime, please dispose of dog mess responsibly. In particular, please do not leave bags beside bins or hanging in hedges – they do not magically decompose but instead have to be retrieved by our litter picker. The best option is to dispose of dog poo at home in your domestic waste (black bin) or, failing that, in a suitable public bin. Not clearing up after your dog is an offence which can attract a substantial fine.

QEII Field

With luck, by the time this newsletter goes to print we will have completed an archaeological survey of the ground to be used for our new recreation field, involving the excavation of a number of test trenches to evaluate whether there are any archaeological remains that might be disturbed by the construction work.

This is something we have been required to do by Oxfordshire County Council as part of our ongoing planning application. Completion will, we hope, move us significantly closer to securing permission for this much needed facility, though the next steps may be dependent on what the survey uncovers.

20mph zone working party

We are still working on the format of a survey into a possible 20mph zone for the village and so are not circulating the survey with this newsletter as originally planned. We want to gather some more information on the practicalities (such as where a

20mph zone would be appropriate and where it might not) so that we can provide as much background as possible with the survey.

Kevin Middleton

Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council

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PPC News

How quickly we have gone from the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to mourning her passing! No matter what your views are about Royalty, this is an extraordinary woman who gave her whole life to the duty that fell, unasked, onto her shoulders in 1952. It is no wonder that we have seen such an outpouring of emotion and queues to say goodbye. She will be a very tough act to follow and PPC wishes health and wisdom to King Charles as he takes on his duties.

Meanwhile, life in Stanford in the Vale goes on and in the past few months PPC has funded the Village Jubilee Celebrations, substantial work at St Denys, the Pickleball Club, the Stanford Art Group and a 4th Defibrillator! Current activity includes the Soccer Club and the Pre-School.

In these uncertain economic times, the PPC Trustees are sensitive to the issues that can impact on the Village, and we have been able to allow some flexibility in our grant giving to help key organisations through the Covid crisis. Particularly when a little assistance here and there makes such a difference to so many!

We also continue to work with the Parish Council in order to identify and develop a new allotment site to provide for the ever-increasing waiting list.

With impending retirements, there are currently two vacancies for Trustees. If you think you might be interested, then check the PPC website at

www.ppcstanford.org or contact me directly on this

email Caryl.oliver@ppctanford.org

Caryl Oliver

Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



Don't Fuel the Thieves!

Fuel theft is a problem for many farms and rural properties, especially with the rising cost of living. Fuel tanks stored in rural and isolated locations are very attractive to thieves looking for an easy target.

We ask the public to be vigilant & offer the following crime prevention advice:

Keep tanks stored close to the property where you can see them. If this isn't possible, consider installing CCTV to watch over isolated tanks and restrict access with walls, fences, cages and hedges

- Security lighting such as 'dusk till dawn' or motion detection lighting can also be an effective deterrent to thieves as well as burglar alarms and gravel as an audible alert.
- Check the oil level in your tank regularly & look for any spilt fuel, marks on the locks or anything else suspicious - a leaky tank may give the impression that a tank has been targeted. Leaky tanks can be hazardous to the environment. Attempts to steal fuel may cause damage to a tank's structural integrity and allow hazardous substances into the wider environment.
- Thieves have been known to steal fuel from inside farm vehicles and machinery. Lock up tractors and powered machinery at night. Where possible keep them out of the view of the public and consider using locking caps or fit anti-siphoning devices.
- Use 'diesel dye', making your diesel traceable and less attractive to thieves
- Consider using a mobile bowser (tanker) kept in a secure place when not in use

Report thefts by calling 101 or online at https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo

Be Cautious of Cold Callers

Residents of South Oxfordshire and Vale are being warned to be cautious of cold callers offering to do roofing work. They may even approach you while you are in your front garden or on the street near your home.

Many legitimate traders will be booked up, so the advice is to be wary of traders who can arrive to start the work the same or following day and push for a quick agreement to use them. Always make sure you receive a final total cost in writing before agreeing to any work starting.

Oxfordshire residents can check the Local Authority's Buy with Confidence scheme for local traders who have been vetted and approved by Trading Standards:

<http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk>

If anyone believes that they have been the victim of such a rogue trader and wants advice, you can contact the Citizens Advice National Consumer Service on 0800 144 8848 or via its website at <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT



Why are they stolen?

Precious metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium are used in catalytic converters. The price of some of these metals has risen sharply in recent years and as a result has led to an increase in the theft of catalytic converters.

Which vehicles are most targeted?

- Honda, Toyota and Lexus vehicles
- Hybrid vehicles - as they have two power sources, so the catalytic converter is used less frequently. The metals are less likely to corrode, meaning they are worth more and are therefore more attractive to thieves.
- Vans, SUVs and 4x4s - as the ride height makes access to the exhaust system beneath them easier

Stop Catalytic Converter Thieves! 🚗

There has been an increase in catalytic converter thefts from vehicles across the South & Vale area.

We ask the public to remain vigilant and take appropriate crime prevention measures, which have been suggested in the leaflet below.

Call us on 999 if a crime is in progress or 101 for non-emergencies.

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

- 1 PHYSICAL PROTECTION**
To keep your vehicle safe, ask your manufacturer or dealership if they can give you any advice on a tilt sensor, welding bolts or adding locks/guards to protect the catalytic converter under the vehicle. Any products will need to be approved by the vehicle manufacturer for use on your vehicle model and you should also make your insurance company aware of any vehicle modifications.
- 2 SECURITY MARKING**
Once an unmarked converter has been removed, it is difficult to match it to the vehicle. Security marking of catalytic converters is possible with a heat-resistant marking system, and is best applied by a garage when the vehicle is being serviced. A sign in your window saying your catalytic converter has been marked may deter thieves.
- 3 SURVEILLANCE**
Where possible, park your vehicle in a garage or secured area if you have one. Garage alarms, outdoor lighting and CCTV can also help to deter thieves. If you have a dash cam, set it to detect movement.
- 4 CAR PARKS**
Where a secure garage isn't an option, park in a well-lit and well-populated area. Public car parks displaying Park Mark signage have additional levels of security in place. (www.parkmark.co.uk)
- 5 DEFENSIVE PARKING**
Find out from your dealership where the catcon (as they are also known) is positioned under your vehicle and ask for advice on how to park defensively to limit access to it. Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to access it.
- 6 REPORTING**
If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, call 999 if a crime is in progress or 101 in a non-emergency. You can also report a crime online via our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations.

 www.thamesvalley.police.uk
 Deaf? Non-emergency text 18001 101
 For crime and community information www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk




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