
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE June 2023

20mph survey

Stanford in the Vale Parish Council invites you to take part in a survey to determine whether we should apply to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for an OCC-funded 20mph zone in Stanford in the Vale.

A commitment to **Vision Zero** – the elimination of deaths and serious injuries from road traffic collisions in Oxfordshire – was agreed by OCC's cabinet at its meeting on 21 June 2022. OCC has set interim targets of a 25% cut in casualties by 2026 and a 50% reduction by 2030, before aiming to reach zero by 2050. Although the total number of reported road casualties in Oxfordshire has fallen over the past decade, road deaths still average about 26 per year. Information on collisions involving at least one vehicle which resulted in injury to at least one person and were reported to the police are mapped at <https://www.crashmap.co.uk/> (default setting is 5 years' data). More information on what Vision Zero is can be obtained via <https://actionvisionzero.org/>. Residents of Stanford in the Vale may complete an online version of the survey via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MX7JPH9> or a paper version, included as an insert to this news update. Completed paper surveys can be returned to the Parish Council via a collection box at the Co-op.

The Parish Council encourages responses from representatives of as many households as possible. The last question offers space for comments or amplification of your answers. A summary of the results will be published in a future Parish Council news update.

Please note that the final decision on the introduction of any 20mph limits rests with OCC.

The deadline to complete surveys is Wed 21 June. If you have any questions please contact Cllr James Brooks (jamesahbrooks@gmail.com, 07464 056839).

Councillor vacancies

Would you like to be involved with the future direction of your community? Are there things you think the parish council should be delivering for the village or particular issues that you think need addressing? Would you like to help to improve the place you live in?

We have a vacancy for two councillors 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.

The parish council has three main responsibilities: representing the whole electorate within the parish; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life in the parish. No particular experience is needed and it could be argued the parish councils work best when councillors have a range of experiences, backgrounds and perspectives on life.

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 on the first Wednesday of the month, and to be able to put some time aside outside meetings to keep informed on local issues and to move forward matters that you feel need addressing.

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.

Litter collector vacancy

The parish council has a part-time vacancy for a street cleaner/litter picker. The role is for 2 hours per week, paid at the National Living Wage (currently £10.42 per hour). All equipment is provided and the vacancy would suit someone who enjoys walking and making a difference in our community. 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.

Food on the QEII Field

We have had complaints from dog walkers that someone is leaving food scraps on the QEII Field. This may be with the well intentioned aim of feeding some of the local wildlife. Unfortunately, this is doing more harm than good. Dogs being walked on the field are eating the rotten food, becoming extremely sick and needing veterinary treatment as a result.

This is also potentially harmful to wild animals, who have specialised diets. Feeding them scraps may result in malnourishment and the spread of disease. If you are leaving food on the field please stop doing so. As well as causing distress and harm to animals and pets it is fly tipping. If it persists the Council may have to consider taking action against anyone witnessed doing it.

Metal detecting on the football field

Areas of the football pitch were recently dug up by someone metal detecting. This causes a lot of disruption for the club. Clearly the pitch needs to be kept flat to be used safely and digging up the surface means that volunteers then have to spend their time repairing the damage. For clarity, metal detecting, or any other activity that involves digging up the grass, is not permitted on the football field, the grass area by the skate park and MUGA, or the play area by the Village Hall.

MUGA resurfacing

We are intending to resurface the multi-use games area (MUGA) next to the skate park. The current surface is now extremely worn and the markings have faded. The new surface will be marked out for a range of activities including tennis, netball, basketball and pickleball. We expect to carry out the work over the summer, subject to confirmation of funding and the contractor's availability.

Community cinema in the Village Hall

The parish council has made a successful application on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee for funding of new audio visual equipment for the Village Hall. This will enable the hall to host a community cinema, which will give important opportunities for existing and new residents to come together through the activities of both managing and attending screening events.

Evidence shows that one of the greatest areas of positive impact of community cinema is for marginalised citizens such as people on low incomes, the rurally isolated, or those with long-term health issues and their carers. The project aims to provide screenings of quality films in a warm, friendly atmosphere and at a modest cost. The facilities will also be available to the clubs and societies who hire the hall.

The funds are provided from the district council as part of a so-called Section 106 agreement. This is an agreement entered into by the district council with a developer, in which the developer commits to provide funds towards local infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of the development.

Coronation celebrations

The parish council provided over 20 goodie bags and 10 sets of bunting to residents who were organising street parties to celebrate the coronation. This was funded through a combination of a grant from the Oxfordshire County Councillor Priority fund and a contribution from the parish council.

We hope that those who chose to celebrate the day enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with friends and neighbours.

New picnic benches

The parish council has organised the installation of several new picnic benches around the village. We now have two new benches in the Millennium Green, two in the play area next to the Village Hall and one between the multi-use games area and the skate park. With a focus on environmental sustainability, they are made entirely from recycled plastic. The benches were funded by a grant from the Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity.

The grant also covers the provision of new bins for the Millennium Green, which we are now moving on to looking at purchasing and installing.

Replacement defibrillator pads

The parish council has funded replacement pads for the village defibrillators. Defibrillator locations across the UK can be viewed at <https://www.defibfinder.uk>.

There are four in the village, located at the Horse and Jockey, the Village Hall, the Football Club and Stanford in the Vale Primary School.

Charitable donations

At its April meeting the parish council agreed its annual charitable donations. These are made to organisations providing help and support to residents within the parish. This year we donated £100 to Vale Community Impact (<https://www.vci.org.uk>), £75 to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizen's Advice (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale>) and £75 to Clean Slate (<https://www.cleanslate.org.uk>).

Kevin Middleton

Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
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Are you ready for Neighbourhood Watch Week, 3rd - 9th June?

With just 2 weeks to go until Neighbourhood Watch Week, are you ready for it?

Neighbourhood Watch Week is a time of celebration of our togetherness and how for over 40 years, we have been making better places to live - together.

The theme this year is **MAKING THIS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE** and focuses on:

- being active in your community
- inviting more people to join your scheme and
- celebrating our volunteers by nominating a Coordinator for a Volunteer Recognition Award - nominations open on 3rd June

From ideas and tips on how to be more active, to conversation starters and membership flyers, we have everything you need to celebrate the week. For more information visit ourwatch.org.uk/nweek; and to help us build momentum follow and share our posts on our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

Order your wheelie bin sticker now We know Neighbourhood Watch signs and stickers are a visible deterrent to criminals. They also help promote your community as one that is safer and more connected. Now, with our new wheelie bin stickers you have a new way of displaying stickers in your road.

More information from: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/nweek>



Thames Valley Police is aware and incredibly concerned about the rise in thefts of vehicles in the Henley area recently. We have seen a number of vehicles that have 'stop/start' button ignitions stolen, whereby offenders have been able to relay the key signal from inside the house using a specially made

device. Because of this method offenders are often able to make their escape without disturbing owners.

The rise in this type of crime is something many forces nationwide are seeing, and something TVP is taking very seriously. We have coordinated a multi-disciplinary approach to tackling these offenders, and residents can expect to see a rise in police presence around Henley, especially in the early hours when these offences are typically taking place. Rest assured we are doing everything we can to prevent this type of crime, and to catch offenders responsible.

If residents own a vehicle that can be started without physically inserting a key into the ignition, there are a few things we can advise to help prevent this type of theft happening to you. Firstly, keep keys as far from the car as is practicable, to help reduce the chance of the signal being relayed. Secondly 'Faraday' pouches or boxes are specifically designed to block the key signal. Keeping your keys in one of these will reduce the risk of the signal being relayed to start the ignition. More robust defences can also be applied, for example a steering lock or a bollard on a driveway will reduce the chances of offenders being able to drive the vehicle away, should they gain access.

TVP would encourage anyone to get in touch should they see anything they believe may be relevant. If it is an emergency, please dial 999, for all other updates please call 101, and quote crime reference number 43230193606.

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