
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE January 2024

Millennium Green Trust AGM

The annual general meeting of the Millennium Green Trust will be held on Wednesday 21st February at 7.30pm in Stanford in the Vale School. The meeting will be held in public and all parishioners are welcome to attend.

MUGA resurfacing

As part of our long-term program to renovate and upgrade the recreation and leisure facilities within the village, the multi-use games area adjacent to the skate park has recently been resurfaced by the parish council. The new acrylic surface includes markings for basketball, netball, tennis and pickle ball, and is a significant improvement on the old one. It is expected to last at least 10 years, and feedback from users so far has been very good.

We also have funds earmarked for the future purchase of netball hoops, a pickle ball net and a replacement tennis net, all of which will follow in the near future.

Skate Park

We are very conscious that the skate park is past the end of its useful life and is in poor condition. We are now making plans for a replacement park. The existing equipment is beyond economical repair, and we have been talking to several contractors about potential new designs. The size of the project means that grant funding will be needed and we are in the process of scoping out potential funding sources for a new park.

Unfortunately, several of the ramps and the half-pipe in the existing park are now in an unsafe condition due to corrosion. We have attempted in the past to fence them off and post warning signs, but whenever we have done so the fencing has been vandalised and the signs removed. Please refrain from using the ramps and half pipe until further notice.

Securing funding is likely to take some time. In the meantime, we are working on replacement of

the teen shelter as a relatively 'quick win' while the longer-term process of replacing the entire park is progressing. We hope to have more news on this in future newsletters.

New play equipment

The parish council has been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity towards a replacement play fort for the play area adjacent to the pre-school. The council itself is also contributing a further £20,000 of funding from our Community Infrastructure Levy reserves towards the equipment, allowing us to look at a number of high-quality options that should provide exciting play opportunities for children.

We have received designs for new equipment from a number of suppliers and in the coming months we will be moving forward to select a supplier and commission a new play fort. This will be the first stage in what is planned as a stage-by-stage refurbishment and updating of the play area.

Footbridge over the River Ock

We reported in the last newsletter on the closure of the well-used footbridge over the River Ock. We have now received confirmation from the county council that a replacement will be installed in their next financial year. We will continue to monitor progress and will provide a further update when we have more details.

Parking on verges

We are planning to trial some grass reinforcement mesh on some of the verges around the village that are suffering damage due to parking. In an ideal world it wouldn't be necessary to park on verges, but we appreciate many people in a rural village like ours are dependent on a car and parking in many areas is a challenge, particularly for multi-occupancy households.

Nevertheless, please be considerate of the condition of the verges when parking your car, and avoid parking directly on pavements. The Highway Code advises against parking on pavements, which can obstruct pedestrians, wheelchair users and those with visual impairments. We have had complaints from several parishioners that they have been unable to navigate the pavements due to inconsiderate parking.

Joint local plan consultation

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils are preparing a joint local plan to cover both areas. The Local Plan looks ahead fifteen years and plans how much development is needed in an area, such as new homes, jobs, roads and schools, and where they should go. It also sets standards for environmental protection, sustainability, water quality and much more. As such it's an important document that will influence planning and development both in the village and in surrounding areas for many years to come.

The district council has launched a consultation process to ask people for their views on the council's preferred options and draft policies. The parish council will be preparing its own response, but the consultation is also open to the public. To view the plan and participate in the consultation, which is open until Wednesday 21 February, please visit <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp/>.

New defibrillator

The parish council has recently arranged for the installation of a new defibrillator outside Wantage Gymnastics Centre on the Ware Road industrial estate. This brings a large part of the new River Meadow estate within the recommended 400 metres distance to the nearest defibrillator.

The defibrillator itself was donated by Stanford in the Vale School as it was surplus to their requirements and installation was funded and organised by the parish council. You can view the location of all the village defibrillators at <https://www.defibfinder.uk>.

Kevin Middleton

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PPC News

A Happy New Year to the ever-growing population of Stanford in the Vale!

We enter 2024 with a focus on some the public areas of the Village that need attention and we are pleased to be able to offer support to the Parish Council in the work they are doing to improve play areas for young and very young members of our community.

Just before Christmas, PPC had a social gathering with organisations that have received grants during the year and it was a great opportunity to hear how those organisations have benefitted from the support as well as exploring how we can help further in the future.

The Allotments group have been particularly active under the management of Trustee Tony Gunby who has done great work balancing the various demands and needs. Next time you go past the allotments have a look and see and give a wave to those working there!

PPC is regulated by the Charities Commission and we are pleased to report that we have fulfilled all the governance requirements for which we are responsible.

The Trustees are a friendly and caring group of people who have the interest of the Village at heart. It is great to see the enthusiasm around the table when projects are raised that benefit kids, families and make our Village a desirable place in which to live and grow up.

We welcome interest from anyone in the Village who might like to become a Trustee – it is not nearly so burdensome as you might think! Contact us to find out more.

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Scam Warning

Hi everyone and Happy New Year
I'm taking the liberty of sharing a warning sent out by my colleague Angie in West Berkshire....

Fraudsters are impersonating Police Officers in a new wave of scam cold calls. Scammers posing as police officers are spooking victims into handing over money and personal details, Which? warns.

One example of this scam. Victims were told that a fraud case was being investigated, that a relative of theirs was in custody or that someone had their bank card and ID. They explained they'd received a cold call from someone who said he was a Chelmsford police officer. He read out a badge number and said that the police were holding a young man who'd been caught using the member's bank card. When asked which bank card he was referring to, the 'officer' couldn't answer.

A Newbury resident has phoned me this morning as she nearly fell for this scam but did not give the caller any bank details but they had her name, address and phone number. They told her to phone 101 but they played a recorded dialling tone and stayed on the line. When she put the phone down she phoned 101 and has reported this to Action Fraud.

Some of these scams have been known to involve courier fraud, where criminals posing as police officers fabricate a scenario for the victim to hand over cash. Victims are told a 'courier' will be sent to collect the cash or other valuable items and if a person doesn't comply, they face being 'arrested'.

Never disclose financial information over the phone. Some cold calls are random attempts to trick victims into handing over sensitive information, others use details already known about you - such as your name or address - to sound more convincing. An unexpected call probing for information or asking for money should raise suspicions.

Police officers will never make unsolicited calls to ask you for personal or financial information. They'll also never ask you to transfer money into an account, hand over cash or bank cards to a courier, or pay a fine or fee over the phone.

Register with the [Telephone Preference Service \(TPS\)](#) to stop legitimate companies from making unsolicited sales and marketing calls to you. So, when you receive a call like this, you'll know a scammer is on the other end of the line. You could also consider installing a call blocker for nuisance calls.

To report a scam call received on your iPhone, text the word 'call' followed by the phone number to 7726. On an Android phone, text the word 'call' to 7726, and you'll then receive a message asking you for the scam number.

WhatsApp scam calls can be reported by opening the WhatsApp chat with the dodgy phone number and tapping 'block'. You can report the contact by tapping 'report contact' and 'block'.

If you have been scammed, call your bank immediately using the number on the back of your bank card and report it to [Action Fraud](#) on **0300 123 2040**.

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