

---

# STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL

---



---

# NEWS UPDATE JANUARY 2016

---

## Oxfordshire County Council Budget Cuts

As reported in our latest newsletter, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) were consulting on measures to save £50 million from their budgets by 2019-2020. Details of their proposed cuts, as well as our response to their consultation can be found within the "Planning and Projects" section of our website [www.stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk](http://www.stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk). Between our January meeting and the time of writing, it has transpired that the government cuts affecting OCC are likely to be nearer £69 million which is likely to have an even greater impact on services currently provided by the County Council.

## Waste & Recycling

Following OCC's consultation into the future/strategy for Oxfordshire's Household Waste and Recycling Centres, they have decided:

- Not to take any immediate decisions with regard to site closures
- Introduce reduced opening hours from 2017 (in line with new contract arrangements)
- A phased approach to be applied to long-term investment decisions, within an overall strategic framework
- Retention/Development of individual sites and overall capacity is based on further detailed service, financial and affordability analysis

## Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Field

We have finally agreed a long term lease with OCC for this site, and are now awaiting the final copy for signing. In the meantime, please do bear in mind that the field is not yet available for public use and neighbouring farmland should not be used for walking. In order to start progressing plans to create new recreation facilities, we have arranged two public meetings – we hope you can come along to one of these and share your ideas and opinions with us at one of these:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Large Village Hall 19:30  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Large Village Hall 10:00

## Parish Council Precept

Last year, the County Council slashed 50% (approx. £3,000) from the grass cutting grant which we use to maintain areas of grass belonging to OCC. Whilst we absorbed this cut through careful management of our funds, as well as using volunteers where possible,

we are now faced with the loss of the precept grant as well as the expectation that there will be further reductions in the grass cutting grant. Therefore, after many years of not increasing the precept, faced with the threat of additional cuts from Oxfordshire County Council, your Parish Council voted to make a modest increase in the precept for the year 2016-2017 of just £700 (an increase of 66p for a Band D dwelling). Whilst we will continue to monitor and manage this situation carefully, there is the risk of further rises over the coming years, if we are to maintain services at the same levels that we have come to expect.

## Community Awards Lunch

At the end of November, the Chairman of Vale of White Horse District Council welcomed three of our parishioners at the Community Awards Lunch 2015 – this event recognises and celebrates the contribution made by those who give up their time to help make our towns and villages such great places to live. Nominated from Stanford in the Vale were Fay Pendell, Claire Lewis and Janet Warren – our congratulations to each of them and thanks for all they do.

## Dog walkers

Please clean up after your dog, regardless of the weather, time of day and whether or not you think anyone is watching!

We've received numerous complaints over recent weeks surrounding dog mess being left on pavements, grass verges and other public areas. It is extremely unpleasant for the rest of the community and we will be using a chalk based paint to highlight such issues over the coming months.

Evidence of anyone allowing their dog to foul the verge or pavement, without clearing it up can be submitted to Vale of White Horse District Council's Environmental Protection team via [env.health@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@southandvale.gov.uk) or telephone 01235 540555.

## Peter Lewis

Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council  
[plewis.sitv@gmail.com](mailto:plewis.sitv@gmail.com)



### **Winter Salt Bins**

This is a reminder that there are 4 salt bins at different locations in the village.

- Millennium Green
- Huntersfield by the Junction with Glebe Road
- Manor Green by Church Path
- Cottage Road by Football Club

It would be very helpful during wintery days, if you think surfaces need salting, to please grab a spade and barrow and spread as necessary. The Bins will be re-filled as they become empty.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

### **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Public Consultation June 2015

Following our Consultation Meeting in March, we held a further Consultation on Future Land Use in the Parish in June 2015. This Consultation sought feedback on proposed sites for Housing allocations, Business & Retail, Live Work Units, Allotments and Burial Ground. It also proposed two alternative sites for the Village School if, and only if, the school needs to relocate in order to expand (whilst bearing in mind that whether or not the school relocates is outside the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan and is a decision for Oxfordshire County Council). Finally the Consultation sought suggestions on sites which could be designated as local Green Spaces in and around the village.

The consultation took the form of a brochure containing details of the site proposals which was distributed to households and businesses in the Parish. Feedback was solicited by means of a pull-out response form in the brochure together with an online response form on this website. Over 150 responses forms were received and these have been independently analysed by Community First Oxfordshire (formerly ORCC). Their report has been published and, together with the Consultation brochure is available for download using the links below.

[Site Allocations Consultation \(June 2015\) Report by Community First Oxfordshire](#)  
[Public Consultation Brochure](#)

If you have any comments that you would like to make please e-mail [info@sitvnp.com](mailto:info@sitvnp.com) quoting your name and address.

### **Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations**

A giant street party is to be held to mark the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on the Mall on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016. It will be the culmination of a weekend of national events to celebrate her official 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Parish Council would like to invite you all to join in the birthday celebrations of her Majesty by organising a street party for your local community. This will be chance to meet your neighbours in a fun way and an opportunity for all to join in.

Initially we are looking for volunteers to organise and co-ordinate a party in an area of Stanford near where you live. If you are interested, please contact Tina Jenkins on [tinaburns4@googlemail.com](mailto:tinaburns4@googlemail.com) or 07443 906150 or 01367 710614 giving your contact details - e mail/phone number.

Our thoughts are this could be held on either Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June or Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June, whichever suits your local residents best. Nearer the time we will publish a list of when and where the street parties are being held so that if there is not one being organised near you, you could join in one of the others. It is our wish that no one should feel excluded from this village event and so feel free to contact Tina to either get involve or to get details about a street party local to you.

If you like the idea but do not know where to start visit [www.streetpart.org.uk](http://www.streetpart.org.uk) for information about how to organise a street party.

There will be a meeting in April for interested volunteers to get together to help one another to share ideas for the planning and preparation of their street parties.

### **Environmental Report**

After a lot of effort by your Parish Council over the last 5+ years the lease on the 19 acre field on the other side of Cottage Road from the Football Pitch has now been agreed and by the time this is printed, should be signed. The lease is for 250 years.

It is now up to the Village how we use this large area of additional community land, although under the terms of the lease it must be for recreational use. This definition would allow for pitches (football, rugby, cricket, hockey etc), tennis courts, bowling green, a fitness trail, woodland, allotments, dog walking areas, a clubhouse/pavilion etc.

We would now like, as promised, to invite all parishioners, clubs and societies within the village to give their input to how we level & layout the land and raise the money to put in place this new recreational asset.

Two public meetings will be held in the Large Village Hall on:

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 0730 and
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 1000

Please do try and come along to one or other meeting to help shape what we do with this land. If you are unable to come along to either event please

write to or e-mail the Parish Clerk with your ideas ensuring that you leave your full contact details  
Mark Isaacs  
Chair Environment Committee

### **Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity (PPC) – 2015 Review and early January 2016**

At the end of 2015, (following the PPC AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015), the PPC Trustees are now as follows:- Roy Walker, *Chairman*, David Axford, *Clerk/Correspondent*, Kathleen Campbell-Cave, Paul Corrigan, Joyce Gardner, Bill Grant, Roger Griffin, Julia Grinsted, Dan Huby, Alan Robinson, Andrew Higgins

#### **Finance:-**

The PPC portfolio held by CCLA, one of the UK's largest charity fund managers, gave a good result in 2015, providing over £25k in income and now stands at around £700k. However 2015 was a quiet year as far as grants were concerned with only just over £10k paid out. As noted below, a further £5k has been approved and two other grant applications totalling over £15k are in the pipeline.

#### **Approved Grant Applications paid in 2015 and outstanding at 14 January 2016 include:**

- A grant of £4,296.18 was made to the SitV Drama Group to support an up-date of their equipment.
- A small donation of £250 was made to help the SitV Silver Threads celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary early in the year
- A grant of £3,000 for support to the SitV Community First Responders for the purchase of two community automatic external defibrillators was paid during the year.
- A grant of £1,600.42 for support to the SitV Preschool for new and varied materials was approved in October 2014. This was paid in two instalments during the year.
- A grant of £600 was made to the Faringdon East Neighbourhood Action Group (which covers Stanford in the Vale in its area) towards the purchase of a Speedwatch kit to be used in Stanford and surrounding villages. The Parish Council was instrumental in arranging the purchase with input from seven Parish Councils in all.
- The trustees have agreed to a grant of up to £5,000 for the revised proposal from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for support for a grant to open part of the church wall on to Church Green in order to make the memorial more inclusive for the village as a whole has been received. The project awaits completion.

- A grant application from the SitV CE Primary School for support for a project to improve the Foundation outside area was received at the Trustee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016. On the condition that the options for the future school expansion are confirmed by OCC, and noting that a considerable sum towards the project is already in the school's budget, the Trustees have decided to match funding also raised by the FOSS parents association on a 1:1 basis up to a sum of £10k.
- A grant application from the SitV Preschool for support for the purchase of lockable storage cupboards for confidential information and equipment storage awaits the receipt of new quotations following comments from the Trustees.

It is worth noting here that our auditors have asked us to limit the period for which a grant remains in force to 12 months in principle, although a little leeway is allowed. Grants not used after 24 months will be automatically rescinded requiring a new grant application if the project is still required.

#### **Allotments:**

The waiting list has now risen to eleven parishioners. The rentals will remain at their current levels during 2016.

Allotment holders are reminded that if they do not keep up their allotments according to the Rules laid down by the Trustees their allotment holding will be withdrawn and given to the next villager on the waiting list.

Any parishioner who wishes his or her name to be added to the allotment waiting list should please contact Paul Corrigan on 01367 718 325.

#### **Villagers are reminded of the PPC Trust Mission Statement:**

***“Striving to improve and strengthen the community within Stanford-in-the-Vale by providing a source of finance for projects that will benefit the parish.”***

Success of course depends on such projects being brought forward. The village organisations and societies which feel the need to improve their facilities are encouraged to make grant requests.

The Trust continues to have around £20,000 to £25,000 per year available for grants. Grant Applications are made to the Trustees through the Hon. Clerk/Correspondent, who can supply Grant Application Forms on request either by e-mail or hard copy. (Tel: 01367 718480)

#### **David N. Axford**

Hon. Clerk/Correspondent, SitV Public Purposes Charity

**Mike Dew (Clerk) - 01367 710387**

**Cllr.Amanda Bailey - 07777 691336**

**Cllr.Peter Gill - 01367 718224**

**Cllr.Mark Isaacs - 01367 718719**

**Cllr.Simon Jackson - 07979 917001**

**Cllr.Peter Lewis (Chair) 01367 710166**  
[plewis.sitv@gmail.com](mailto:plewis.sitv@gmail.com)

**Cllr.Janet Warren - 01367 719789**

**Cllr.Karin WilliamsCuss - 07771 614101**