



Community Mini-Bus

The community mini-bus concept came forward some 35 years ago, as the only bus serving Stanford in the Vale when the only operator then serving the village decided to withdraw their services. The commercially operated Route 67 has announced a revised hourly service, and the mini-bus committee has decided that the additional service that the mini-bus can provide is no longer relevant in light of this. On behalf of our community, I would like to thank all those who gave up their time to creating and managing the service, as well as the many volunteer drivers who over the years have helped to ensure a regular and reliable link between the village and the local market towns.

Strategic Site Developments

You will be aware that two consultations have recently been conducted towards separate parts of the Strategic Site off Faringdon Road, as identified in Vale's Local Plan. An outline planning application has been made for the first of these, whilst the developers for the second consultation are revising their plans. The Parish Council is currently scrutinising the proposals and reviewing the wider implications on the A417 and the rest of the village.

Public Open Space – Nursery End

Ahead of accepting the transfer of Public Open Space from the Nursery End development, members of the Parish Council have been reviewing the site along with representatives from David Wilson Homes. This due diligence should ensure minimal deviation from the previously agreed plans, and we hope will lead to a smooth handover and a site that future Parish Councils can easily maintain for many years to come.

Faringdon Road (A417) Sewer Works

Despite many emails, meetings and investigations, after 3+ years of refusing to acknowledge the issues raised by the Parish Council, Thames Water have

finally replaced a section of collapsed sewer along the A417. We sincerely hope that this will alleviate foul-water flooding issues that residents in this area have had to put up with.

Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Field

Whilst we continue to progress matters regarding the Change of Use and electricity pylons that currently traverse the site, I'd like to pass on our thanks to District Councillor Robert Sharp who has agreed to assist us with cutting the field to limit the spread of ragwort, which is affecting the neighbouring pasture.

Peter Lewis

Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
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Smart Meters

Southern Electric along with other energy suppliers is offering customers free Smart Meter installs and commissioning, with the aim to have a fully functioning smart meter network by 2020.

This is to comply with OFGEM, the governmental agency responsible for drawing up the procedure, that all suppliers have to comply to, when installing Smart Meters.

Smart Meters can benefit homes in many ways, and here are just a few:

1. Meter readings sent automatically to your supplier, so no more having to read your own meter.
2. No more meter readers trying to gain access to your property.
3. Accurate billing, no more estimated, or catch up bills.
4. You only pay for what you actually use.
5. Free energy monitor if you wish, so you can see what you are spending on your energy.
6. The energy monitor will help you understand what appliances and heating is costing you.

7. No changes to your tariff, the way you are billed, everything stays the same, we just install new Smart Meters.
8. Smart Meters and energy monitor are Free, no charge to the customer.

Rob Pritchard from SSE is offering Free ½ hour talks to community groups on Smart Meters, and please feel free to contact him on behalf of your group.

Oxfordshire County Council Consultation on the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

Consultation documents are available online at www.oxfordshiregov.uk/waste (or contact OCC on 01865 816043) and runs from 14th July until 11th August.

If you use Stanford Tip, please make your views known.

Millennium Green Annual General Meeting

The Trustees invites parishioners to the AGM on 7th September for 7 pm. The Venue will be the Village Hall prior to The Parish Council Meeting. If you have any questions / comments you would like to share please send them to the Chair - Peter Gill at 5 Chapel Road, or email - cpngill46@gmail.com The Annual report is being prepared and will be published in the next newsletter.



Much needed affordable housing community opens in Stanford

A smart new community of 28 much-needed affordable Stonewater homes has been opened this week in Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire.

The new one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom homes for affordable rent and shared ownership in Faringdon Road, have been developed by leading social housing provider Stonewater in partnership with Vale of the White Horse District Council, Stanford in the Vale Parish Council and contractors David Wilson Homes.

The properties which have been built to meet the needs of local young people, couples and families

struggling to find affordable housing in the village, offer a mix of four one-bedroom apartments, a two-bedroom apartment, ten two-bedroom and four three-bedroom houses, and two large four-bedroom family houses for rent. The scheme includes five two-bedroom and two three-bedroom shared ownership houses which were purchased on a part rent, part buy basis starting at £96,000 for a 40% share.

“High private rents and unaffordable house prices in the Stanford area are forcing young people and their families out of the local community and further away from where they live and work,” says Chris Montague, Head of Development for Stonewater. “These new homes address a real need in the village for genuinely affordable homes which are vital to sustaining local shops, businesses and services. We hope that all our new residents will enjoy living in them and look forward to providing more affordable schemes like this one, in other parts of the county where they are most needed.”

Each of the new Stonewater homes has been carefully designed to complement the village’s architectural character with traditional natural stone facades, stone slate roofing and pitched roofs. Our vision is simple: for everyone to have the opportunity to have a place they can call home.

www.stonewaterwater.org

Follow Stonewater on Twitter - @StonewaterUK or find us on Facebook



Fake Letter Boxes

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has noticed an increase in reports of fraudsters placing fake letter boxes on residential properties in an attempt to harvest the mail. Residents are sometimes unaware of the fake letterbox as the fraudsters will periodically remove the item, which may leave notable markings. The mail is then used to open various lines of credit with financial providers in the name of the innocent resident.

Protect Yourself

- Be vigilant and check for any suspicious activity, tampering of your post/letterbox or for suspicious glue markings on the wall.

- Check all post received from financial institutions, even if it appears unsolicited.
- Consider reporting theft of mail to your local police force and any cases of identity fraud to Action Fraud.
- If you have been a victim of identity fraud consider Cifas Protection Registration www.cifas.org.uk/protective_registration_form

If you, or anyone you know, has been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Purchasing Pets Online

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and Action Fraud have noticed a rise in the reporting of pets, and in particular puppies and kittens, being advertised for sale via popular online auction websites. The fraudsters will place an advert of the pet for sale, often claiming that the pet is currently held somewhere less accessible or overseas. Upon agreement of a sale, the suspect will usually request an advance payment by money transfer or bank transfer. However, the pet does not materialise and the fraudster will subsequently ask for further advanced payments for courier charges, shipping fees and additional transportation costs. Even if further payments are made, the pet will still not materialise as it is likely that the pet does not exist.

Protect Yourself

- Stay within auction guidelines.
- Be cautious if the seller initially requests payment via one method, but later claims that due to 'issues with their account' they will need to take the payment via an alternative method such as a bank transfer.
- Consider conducting research on other information provided by the seller, for example a mobile phone number or email address used by the seller could alert you to any negative information associated with the number/email address online.
- Request details of the courier company being used and consider researching it.
- Agree a suitable time to meet face to face to agree the purchase and to collect the pet. If the seller is reluctant to meet then it could be an indication that the pet does not exist.
- A genuine seller should be keen to ensure that the pet is going to a caring and loving new home.

If the seller does not express any interest in you and the pet's new home, be wary.

- If you think the purchase price is too good to be true then it probably is, especially if the pet is advertised as a pure-breed.
- Do not be afraid to request copies of the pet's inoculation history, breed paperwork and certification prior to agreeing a sale. If the seller is reluctant or unable to provide this information it could be an indication that either the pet does not exist or the pet has been illegally bred e.g. it originates from a 'puppy farm'. A 'puppy farm' is a commercial dog breeding enterprise where the sole aim is to maximise profit for the least investment. Commercial dog breeders must be registered with their local authority and undergo regular inspections to ensure that the puppies are bred responsibly and are in turn fit and healthy. Illegally farmed puppies will often be kept in inadequate conditions and are more likely to suffer from ailments and illnesses associated with irresponsible breeding.
- When thinking of buying a pet, consider buying them in person from rescue centres or from reputable breeders
- If you have been affected by this, or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

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