STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS *UPDATE* SEPTEMBER 2017

QEII Recreation Field

Our efforts are continuing to secure a revised wayleave that is acceptable to the County Council, in order to be able to re-route the power lines that currently cross the site. Unfortunately, we're currently experiencing yet more delays with the legal team at OCC, but we're doing all that we can to progress this matter. Once this is complete, we can then look to start the levelling work which will be the next milestone in this major programme of works.

Perry's Road Trees

We were contacted towards the end of June from concerned residents as it appeared that Sovereign Vale Housing Associate were intent on felling the trees that border Perry's Road & the Football Club. This appeared to stem from some mis-placed health and safety concerns that the Housing Association claimed to have, but these were never satisfactorily explained. In our opinion, these trees serve an amenity purpose in this location, both for the overall appearance, as well as acting as something of a sound barrier. We have therefore been working with Vale of White Horse District Council and have now secured Tree Protection Orders for them, which will prevent the Housing Association from undertaking any such works without gaining prior approval.

Nursery End – Public Open Space

Despite our numerous efforts, the developer still has many outstanding points to resolve prior to the handover of the public open space within this site to the parish. Whilst we're frustrated by the rate of progress, we are now working with the Planning Enforcement team to resolve these remaining items.

Public Waste Bins

There were some issues over the summer with bins overflowing as they were not being emptied on a regular basis by the District Council's contractor. We understand this was due to a number of vehicles used by the contractor undergoing unexpected maintenance at the same time. We worked with the District Council to ensure that contingency plans were put in place, and collections now appear to have returned to normal.

Sheep Worrying

We've received a few reports from local farmers with concerns about dogs not being kept on leads, whilst in fields with livestock. "Worrying" includes chasing, as well as attacking sheep (or indeed other livestock), and whilst your dog may usually be very well behaved, should the unforeseen happen, the farmer is able to shoot a dog found attacking sheep. We're continuing efforts to expand the public footpath network around the village, but much of this is dependent on the goodwill of landowners. It is much easier to secure their support, when they are not dealing with livestock losses of this nature, or indeed finding people trespassing across private land.

Dog Walkers

Please, please clean up after your pet! Whilst we've seen a noticeable improvement over the summer months, as the evenings draw in, there appear to be a handful of owners who are happy to ignore whatever their dog leaves behind. Not only is it disgusting and a health risk to everyone else, it is also a criminal offence, for which you can be fined. Even if you take your dog into the surrounding countryside, faeces should also be cleared from farm land, since the eggs of the parasites can survive on the ground and then cause harm to livestock. If you should see someone not clearing up after their pet, please report the matter to <u>env.health@southandvale.gov.uk</u> / 01235 422403, with details and photos or anything else that might help to identify the individual.

Household Waste & Recycling Centre HWRC (the tip)

Oxfordshire County Council have announced that they are no longer considering closing the HWRC in Stanford, which we were previously campaigning to retain. However, in order to support their budget shortfall, OCC will be making some changes to the charging system for DIY waste. With effect from 01 October, OCC will be making a charge of £1.50 per bag/large item of DIY waste. All other household rubbish, cardboard, garden waste etc. can continue to be disposed of free of charge. For more details go to <u>www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chargeablewaste</u>

Peter Lewis

Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council plewis.sitv@gmail.com

Criminal Damage - Recreation Area / Park

It has recently come to our attention that the wet pour in the park nearest to the preschool has been purposefully torn up and then thrown around. This is an act of criminal damage and will not be tolerated. Please can you be vigilant and if you see someone acting in this way, please inform the parish clerk or a member of the parish council as soon as possible. The park is there for the whole village to use and enjoy, so it is a great shame that a few are ruining it for others

Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity (PPC) Report for August 2017

The Trustees met on Thursday 13th July 2017 with Roger Griffin in the Chair. Ten of the eleven Trustees attended.

It was noted that the PPC portfolio continues to provide a satisfactory income to meet new grant applications. Three new grant applications were considered.

Grant Applications as at 13th July 2017

- The Trustees noted that the only outstanding grant offer from 2016 is the remaining £5,000.00 support for SitV CE Primary School to improve the Foundation outside area (matched funding with FOSS). This will need renewal if it is not taken up by the end of the calendar year.
- A request from Home Start (Southern Oxfordshire) for help towards family support work in Stanford in the Vale was discussed. The Trustees decided to offer a grant of £1,250 on the condition that it must be spent for the benefit of a Stanford in the Vale family and that this offer would be a "one off" and not create a precedent.
- A request for support by the Stanford in the Vale Pre-School to refurbish their outside areas was considered and the Trustees agreed to offer a grant of up to £5,000 for this work.
- With regard to a letter from Faringdon East Neighbourhood Group requesting support for a Youth Event at Mill Farm, it was noted that the PPC considers funding for temporary matters such as food and specific events is not within its remit.

Allotments:

All allotments are now rented out and the waiting list for this year is now two villagers. Three further requests for allotments for 2018 are on the list.

As usual, 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 to have his or her name added to the allotment waiting list should please contact Paul Corrigan on 01367 718 325.

<u>Villagers are reminded of the PPC Trust Scheme</u> <u>Statement:</u>

"The Trustees shall apply the income of the Charity for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Stanford in the Vale." The Trustees interpret this with the hope that their grants will improve and strengthen the community spirit 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. Grants are made for specific projects, normally for durable items. Grant Applications are made to the Trustees through the Hon. Clerk/Correspondent, who can supply the latest up-dated Grant Application Forms on request either by e-mail or hard copy. (Tel: 01367 718 480 or email <u>dnax@btinternet.com</u>)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the next standard meeting of the Trustees will be on Thursday, 12th October 2017 to be held in the Village Hall Committee Room.

David N. Axford, Hon. Clerk/Correspondent, SitV Public Purposes Charity

Action Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

Fraudsters have been advertising vehicles and machinery for sale on various selling platforms online. The victims, after communicating via email with the fraudster, will receive a bogus email which purports to be from an established escrow provider (a third party who will keep the payment until the buying and selling parties are both happy with the deal).

These emails are designed to persuade victims to pay upfront, via bank transfer, before visiting the seller to collect the goods. The emails also claim that the buyer (victim) has a cooling off period to reclaim the payment if they change their mind. This gives victims the false sense of security that their money is being looked after by this trustworthy third party, when in fact it is not and the money has gone straight to the fraudster.

Protect yourself:

 When making a large purchase such as a new car or machinery, always meet the seller face to face first and ask to see the goods before transferring any money.

- If you receive a suspicious email asking for payment, check for spelling, grammar, or any other errors, and check who sent the email. If in doubt, check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller.
- Contact the third party the fraudsters are purporting to be using to make the transaction. They should be able to confirm whether the email you have received is legitimate or not.
- False adverts often offer vehicles or machinery for sale well below market value to entice potential victims; always be cautious. If it looks too good to be true then it probably is.

If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting <u>www.actionfraud.police.uk</u>, or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Oxfordshire County Council's DIY 1, 2, 3 for free scheme's changing

The current scheme which has been running at their Household Waste Recycling Centres for 15 years allowed residents to deposit up to three DIY waste items for free before being charged a small fee of £1.00 for each additional item.

From the 1^{st} October 2017 this changes to a small fixed fee per item of £1.50 for most non-household or DIY items.

Residents can still deposit household waste for free at their local Household Waste Recycling Centre.

More information about the changes can be found online at <u>www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chargeablewaste</u>

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