
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE APRIL 2018

Temporary Roadworks & Barriers

Since around December we have been dealing with someone who seems to think that it's amusing to rearrange the safety barriers surrounding the roadworks in High Street, Bow Road and outside the village on the way to Gainfield. This has progressed from simply being inconvenient, to completely blocking the road and more recently to creating a chicane for drivers to weave through. We've been discussing this issue with both the utilities companies undertaking the roadworks as well as Thames Valley Police who have increased patrols overnight. The issue appears to happen somewhere between 02:00-05:00 on an almost daily basis. We suspect the person(s) are in a vehicle since similar issues were occurring at Pusey as well. Unfortunately, this has some very serious consequences - we are aware of at least one vehicle that was written off after following the "chicane route" into the ditch. If you see anything suspicious, please report it directly to the police, or you have any information/knowledge of anyone involved either contact the police or any of the Parish Council. In the meantime, we have been working with Thames Water to improve the traffic lights and minimise delays for all of us.

Burial Ground

We have previously written to you to warn that the burial ground is approaching capacity. Whilst it is difficult to give an exact timeframe, there is probably little more than a year before there are no more spaces available, although we believe that it will still be possible to bury ashes. Obviously, this may be very distressing for some family members, but without more space there are very few options available. If you, or someone you know, has land around the village that you would be interested in gifting or selling to the village to create a new burial ground, please contact any of the Parish Council, and we would be happy to discuss further.

Car Parking

The last few months have seen an increase in cars parked inconsiderately around the village. All grassed areas are exceptionally soft at present and we would ask you not to drive across or park on these, especially the village greens, to prevent further damage. In areas such as Hunters Field where grass strips border the road, grass reinforcement strips can be purchased for a modest cost. These protect the underlying

ground, allow the grass to grow through them and are simple to install, which must be better than driving your car through muddy ruts. There are also a number of vehicles being parked on grassed front gardens, or where "driveway" access has been created across grassed areas. In most cases you will require a permit from the County Council to alter driveways to avoid being fined. More information on both of these can be found by searching online, but if you should have any questions in relation to this, feel free to contact me directly.

Why not walk?

We hear an increasing number of complaints relating to parking outside the Co-op/Huddle/school. Whilst there will always be an occasional need for someone reading this to drive, given the short distances involved it does seem to be a missed opportunity that more of us don't take the opportunity to walk there. According to www.nhs.uk regular walking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, stroke and some cancers. We have many beautiful areas throughout the village, so why not spend just a couple of minutes extra and walk instead?

Event posters

As reported last time, please help us to keep the village looking presentable by removing posters for your event, once it has taken place.

Peter Lewis

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

WANTED

The Parish Council undertake numerous maintenance activities/repairs around the village ranging from dealing with play equipment, through to repairing fences and preventing undergrowth from blocking pathways. We're looking for someone that could offer a few hours a week to supplement our existing team, to ensure all these essential tasks are completed in a timely manner. Rates negotiable. For more information, please contact jmwarren32@btinternet.com.

**.Annual Parish Meeting
To be held on Thursday 26th April
Small Village Hall at 7.30 pm
All welcome**

**Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity (PPC)
Report for April 2018**

The Public Purposes Charity Trustees met on 1st February 2018. The Trustees were pleased to co-opt Caryl Oliver as a new member. The 2018 list of PPC Trustees is now as follows~;

Chairman, Dr Roger Griffin, Clerk/Correspondent, Dr David Axford, P K. Campbell-Cave, P. Corrigan, J. Gardner, W. Grant, J. Grinsted, A. Higgins, M. Macfarlane, Caryl Oliver and A. Robinson.

The Trustees recalled supporting the Community Bus Committee in its purchase of a new bus many years ago and welcomed the recent donation of over £25k from the Community Bus Committee which has now wound up. It was decided to invest a further £15k into the CCLA portfolio.

The following Grants have been offered:

- The offer of up to £10,000 support towards burying overhead power cables in the QEII Recreation field requested by the Parish Council remains outstanding.
- A request from the 1st Stanford in the Vale Scout Group to purchase catering equipment in the sum of £1,500 matching support to their other funds was approved.
- A request by the 1st SitV Scout Group Fundraiser for £638 one-third support to purchase a car trailer for use on camping trips was also approved.
- An offer of £6,423 was made to the St Denys Parochial Church Council (PCC) to enable the church clock to be refurbished in situ.

Allotments:

The hedges of the allotments have now been trimmed.

The waiting list for this year is now about 7 villagers. Some allotments are still awaiting allocation.

All allotment holders have been sent invoices for the coming year. Please note that any that have not been paid by the end of March may be re-allocated to those 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.

Villagers are reminded again of the PPC Trust Scheme Statement:

“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 £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 dnax@btinternet.com)

Stanford in the Vale Neighbourhood Plan- latest update

Concerned about the number of houses that were being built, this parish decided it needed a Neighbourhood Plan and the volunteer Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee has been working towards completing this task since 2014. Please look at our website www.sitvnp.com where you will find all the information we have gathered so far, including records of public consultations, reports and other evidence plus agendas and minutes of our regular meetings.

So why have a Neighbourhood Plan?

We all want to protect and enhance what is good about our parish of Stanford in the Vale, improve facilities and services and have a positive influence on future development. A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is an important way to do this:

- It will carry real weight in future planning matters.
- It can help direct where new homes, shops, offices, leisure facilities, schools and other development should be built and what they should look like.

Our vision is to be “One of the best places in the south of England in which to live, work and play”.

The last report in this newsletter mentioned the Stanford Wildlife Assessment Team (SWAT), sustainability appraisal and the primary school. We can now provide you with a further update on these topics, as follows;

Members of SWAT have provided a wealth of important wildlife related evidence supporting the conservation of Green Spaces in and around the village and parish. A report of their findings will be shared at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 26th April, 7pm (Small Village Hall) and a more detailed display is planned for the Summer Festival.

We very much appreciate their time and dedication to assembling this detailed record of sightings.

A Sustainability Appraisal is designed to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of a Neighbourhood Plan. In doing so it helps to ensure that decisions are made that contribute to achieving sustainable development. In line with this, we have written and submitted to the planning authority (Vale of White Horse DC) a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Unfortunately, this has suffered a number of delays whilst VWHDC review the document. They have made several recommendations, which we are in the process of incorporating, as well as indicating that they will need to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment in addition. This process has and continues to take a significant amount of time for members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee (NPSC) who, it should be remembered, are volunteers working on your behalf.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has still not decided if expansion of the existing primary school is possible, even though a draft feasibility study on this subject was submitted to OCC in February 2016. OCC advised the NPSC that they were not able to fund desktop studies or consider potential sites for a new school but suggested that "Locality" might grant some funding. The NPSC were successful in securing such funding and commissioned Atkins Global to undertake desktop studies on three possible sites. The NPSC needs to consider alternative sites for education purposes, ensuring that a new primary school can be built if the present site is not able to expand, either now or at some time in the future. These desktop studies will form part of the evidence base of the Neighbourhood Plan. They have also been shared with Oxfordshire County Council, to inform and enable them to consider all options in relation to expansion.

Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee will be present at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 26th April-7pm (Small Village Hall) to expand on the above report and answer any other queries you may have.

Your NPSC- Sue Murrin, Richard Ryan, Roger Griffin, Hadyn Wood, Peter Gill (Senior Parish Councillor) and Peter Lewis (Chair Parish Council)

False Telephone Preference Service Calls

Fraudsters are cold-calling victims, falsely stating that they are calling from one of the well-known UK telecommunication service providers. They call victims claiming to provide a 'Telephone Preference Service' - an enhanced call-barring service, which includes barring international call centres.

The fraudsters ask victims to confirm/provide their bank account details, informing them that there is a

one-off charge for the service. Victims instead see monthly debits deducted from their accounts, which they have not authorised. The fraudsters often target elderly victims.

In all instances, direct debits are set up without following proper procedure. The victim is not sent written confirmation of the direct debit instruction, which is supposed to be sent within three days.

On occasions when victims attempted to call back, the telephone number provided by the fraudster was either unable to be reached or the victim's direct debit cancellation request was refused. During 2017, there were 493 Action Fraud Reports relating to this fraud.

Protect yourself:

- There is only one Telephone Preference Service (TPS). The TPS is the only official UK 'do-not-call' register for opting out of live telesales calls. It is **FREE** to sign-up to the register. **TPS never charge for registration.** You can register for this service at <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk>.
- You will receive postal confirmation of genuine direct debits. If you notice unauthorised payments leaving your account, you should contact your bank promptly.
- Always be wary of providing personal information, or confirming that personal information the caller already claims to hold is correct. Always be **certain** that you know who you talking to. If in doubt hang up immediately.

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

This Parish Council Newsletter is printed every other month, so 6 copies a year. It reports on some of the issues discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings.

Mike Dew (Clerk)	-	01367 710387
Cllr. Amanda Bailey	-	07777 691336
Cllr. Peter Gill	-	01367 718224
Cllr. Simon Howes		07875 249265
Cllr. Mark Isaacs	-	01367 718719
Cllr. Simon Jackson	-	07979 917001
Cllr. Tina Jenkins	-	07443 906150
Cllr. Nona Lewis	-	01367 710779
Cllr. Peter Lewis (Chair) plewis.sitv@gmail.com	-	01367 710166
Cllr. Janet Warren	-	01367 710789
Cllr. Karin WilliamsCuss	-	07771 614101