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# STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL

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# NEWS UPDATE January 2019

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## Co-Option

I am delighted to advise that the recently reported vacancy on the Parish Council has now been filled. Council co-opted Councillor Kevin Middleton in December 2018 – his contact details can be found along with those of all other Councillors both in this newsletter and on our website.

## QEII

Further to my report in the previous edition of this newsletter, the electrical works to relocate the overhead power lines underground were finally completed during November. The Parish Council is completing the process of claiming our grant monies, which could only be done upon completion of the works. Relocating the power lines, whilst expensive, was essential to the site becoming available for recreational purposes. These grants, generously awarded by Vale of White Horse District Council and Stanford in the Vale's Public Purposes Charity have ensured that the Parish Council's own funds and reserves can be directed towards the creation of the facilities that the site will require. The next phase of work involves levelling the site, which Earthline Ltd have offered to undertake free of charge for the benefit of the community. However, prior to this commencing, a levelling plan must be agreed with Oxfordshire County Council, which, based on past experience is likely to take some time.

## Precept/Budget

At the January PC meeting, Council reviewed our finances, comparing actual spend against budget for the financial year to date and this was used to determine the precept for forthcoming financial year. We are always mindful that any public monies should be kept to the minimum necessary but equally that they should provide the services that are required. In light of this, and considering likely demands for funding in the year ahead Council adopted a very modest uplift in precept, which equates to an increase of just 32p for a Band D dwelling.

## Strategic Site developments

We recently reported that some of the details pertaining to the two developments within the Strategic Site (west of the A417, north of Ware Road) had come forward. Council reviewed the plans in detail and made numerous recommendations to the Planning Officer which we felt would be much better than the original proposals from the developer. We have since had an initial meeting with David Wilson

Homes to discuss some of these in more detail, and whilst we don't yet have written plans detailing the recommended changes, based on our discussions, we hope that these will be forthcoming shortly. We also impressed upon David Wilson Homes our dissatisfaction with regards to their lack of progress at completing numerous outstanding matters with regards the Nursery End development and highlighted the importance of seeing these completed with some degree of urgency.

## Parking

Please be considerate of others both on and off the road when parking, regardless of where you're leaving your vehicle and whether it will be for "just a minute" or several hours. We ask that you don't park on any of the Village Greens, since these are protected and very susceptible to damage at this time of year. If you frequently park on other grassed areas please remember that 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.

## Local Elections

District Council elections are expected to take place in May 2019, and Parish Council elections follow the same timetable. Elections will only be held should there be more candidates than seats available. If you are interested, or have been considering standing for the Parish Council, any of the existing Councillors would be more than happy to discuss the obligations and address any questions or concerns you might have.



## Spring Bulbs

The Parish Council arranged for 1,500 additional bulbs to be planted last spring around Upper, Manor and Church Green as well as High Street. Since then additional planting has been completed along the A417 verge courtesy of David Wilson Homes as part of their commitments towards the Nursery End development. As this goes to press, the first of the snowdrops are emerging around the village – we hope you will all enjoy some beautiful displays over the coming weeks.

## Peter Lewis

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

## 5 Day Free Business Course

From Monday 4 February, a FREE five-day business course will be coming to Faringdon to help people kick start a new business and to support independent businesses grow and succeed.

The intensive course is being sponsored by Vale of White Horse District Council and run by PopUp Business School. The school will be opening at 10am at the Pump House in the town centre and will include lots of practical sessions, advice, one-to-one coaching and builds a support network from everyone attending.

Last year 53 people attended the course in Didcot and by the end of the week 15 new businesses were set up and ready to trade and another 39 were almost ready to get going. During the Didcot sessions, entrepreneurs set up a wide range of companies including wedding photographer, a vegan fast food retailer, a life coach service and an entertainment hire company.

Workshops in Faringdon will run 10am-3pm each day from Monday through to Friday and provide advice on how businesses can be set up for free and use social media and websites to find new customers.

Cllr Mike Murray, Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "This course is a part of our ongoing commitment to support local business and the economy. The different sessions have something for everyone – from an individual with a business idea to a growing sole trader ready to take the next big step." Alan Donegan, Co-Founder of the PopUp Business School said "We are very excited about coming back to Oxfordshire, and it's always amazing going to a new town to teach people how to make money doing something they love"

The course is available FREE of charge to anyone wanting to attend and is supported by Vale of White Horse District Council, Faringdon Chamber of Commerce, Faringdon Town Council, Vale4Business and Sovereign Housing.

To book your place, go to

[www.popupbusinessschool.co.uk/faringdon](http://www.popupbusinessschool.co.uk/faringdon)

Communications

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

01235 422400

[www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk) | [@southoxon](https://twitter.com/southoxon)

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) | [@whitehorsedc](https://twitter.com/whitehorsedc)



## Interested in volunteering?

Come along to Restore's volunteering event to find out more about our different volunteering roles.



We offer the opportunity to learn new skills, be part of a friendly team and to really make a difference.

Tuesday 26th February, 6pm to 7.30pm  
Restore

Manzil Way, off Cowley Road, Oxford  
[volunteer@restore.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@restore.org.uk) 01865 455822

[www.restore.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.restore.org.uk/volunteer)



**Burglary** remains a priority following a recent spate of three breaks in the Shrivenham area during the month of December. Increased patrols and crime reduction advice by the team has helped to reassure the community. We wish to thank the public for your extra vigilance and community resilience. Christmas is always a favourite time for burglars but still please remain security conscious throughout 2019.

We have been running Operation Monitor for six months (our operation to combat dwelling burglary) and reports show that in a large proportion of our burglaries suspects have gained entry to properties through insecure doors and windows. Access to the rear of properties has also been made easy by insecure side/rear gates. Are you making it easy for burglars? Please review your security, make sure that all of your windows and doors are locked before going to bed or going out. Lock your cars and keep keys away from doors and windows. Fit a lock on any gates and sheds and install security lighting and CCTV. If you would like any further advice please email the team using details at the bottom of the page.

**Anti-social behaviour/Violent Crime** in Faringdon remains a focus for the team. Parents of offending teenagers are on board and helping the team to curb behaviour that might cause the community harassment and distress. The Neighbourhood team understand that teenagers need space away from home but we don't tolerate climbing on buildings or swearing loudly in public to cause offence to others.

**Theft from motor vehicles at beauty spots** is still an area of business we focus on particularly in the car parks that run along the Ridgeway. Thanks to close working with the National Trust and local rural community the incidents remained low over the festive period. Please do not keep any valuables in your vehicles.

You said we did

We received information that people were drug dealing from an address in Curtis Close Watchfield so a warrant was executed and arrests made. Due to the nature of the drug related anti-social behaviour we applied to the Magistrates Court for a Closure Notice which was duly granted for a three month period. The order limits who is allowed at the property helping to protect the occupants and neighbours from anti-social behaviour.

Offenders brought to justice

- A female was arrested in Faringdon for assault and criminal damage in the Market Place following reports of anti-social behaviour by witnesses.

She is released under investigation at this time to obtain further evidence.

- Three males were arrested for possession of weapons following the stop check of a vehicle in Watchfield recently. One male has been charged for driving offences and possession of an offensive weapon in public and the other two are still under investigation.

- A male from Faringdon was arrested for failing to appear at court and another male was arrested for theft from his employer and had his house searched to recover the stolen items.

Witness appeals

We are appealing for witnesses following two burglaries at properties on Fairthorne Way and Stainswick Lane, Shrivenham. The incidents occurred at around 9.30pm on Friday 28 December. The offender/s gained access to the properties by smashing the doors at the rear of both houses.

**Please get in touch/follow us using the following:**

E-mail: [FaringdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FaringdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale](http://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale)

Phone: 101

Always phone 999 in an emergency

<b>Mike Dew (Clerk)</b>	-	<b>01367 710387</b>
<b>Cllr. Amanda Bailey</b>	-	<b>07777 691336</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Gill</b>	-	<b>01367 718224</b>
<b>Cllr. Simon Howes</b>		<b>07875 249265</b>
<b>Cllr. Mark Isaacs</b>	-	<b>01367 718719</b>
<b>Cllr. Simon Jackson</b>	-	<b>07979 917001</b>
<b>Cllr. Tina Jenkins</b>	-	<b>07443 906150</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Lewis (Chair)</b> <a href="mailto:plewis.sitv@gmail.com">plewis.sitv@gmail.com</a>	-	<b>01367 710166</b>
<b>Cllr. Kevin Middleton</b>	-	<b>01367 718395</b>
<b>Cllr. Janet Warren</b>	-	<b>01367 710789</b>
<b>Cllr. Karin WilliamsCuss</b>	-	<b>07771 614101</b>