
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE April 2020

Localised Flooding

Further to our previous reports on this matter, we continue to press both the highways drainage team at Oxfordshire County Council and your County Councillor to see the matter is properly resolved and as quickly as possible. I have recently met with the officers concerned and understand that they are looking at some further investigations in the High Street – unfortunately, this is likely to be several weeks away.

Storm Damage

The recent storms have led to a number of issues around the village, including fallen trees, damaged fencing and a collapsed manhole. Our sincere thanks go to Darren Rolls who has been out, regardless of the weather, making these areas safe for the benefit of all of us.

QEII Recreation Field Update

Following the pre-application advice received from the District Council, we are working towards obtaining the relevant drainage calculations and landscape details required to submit the formal planning application. We are currently engaging with the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and specialist contractors to complete the necessary work.

Strategic Site

Development work has now commenced on the strategic site – we have been monitoring the early progress and working with the District Council to ensure that the developer is working in line with the permission and conditions granted.

Climate and Environmental Emergency

In recent months, the Parish Council environmental sub-committee has spent some considerable time drafting this policy. The detailed policy will be available on the PC website, and it is our intention that this will act as a focal point that will impact decision making within the Parish Council, but also amongst all members of our local community.

Parking – Village Greens

Please, please, please avoid parking your vehicle on grassed areas around the village, especially Upper Green and Church Green. The sheer volume of water we've seen recently leaves all grassed areas in the village susceptible to damage from parked cars. Even two wheels on the grass for short periods quickly damages the grass and ruts the underlying surface – there is plenty of hardstanding available.

Play Equipment / Skatepark

Despite our best efforts, repairs to the (currently fenced off) "Half-pipe" in the skatepark are ongoing, as the weather continues to limit the opportunities to undertake the repairs. The fencing will remain as the equipment cannot be safely used at present – dismantling/damaging the fencing simply increases the costs to complete these works and ultimately delays the project.

Footpaths

We've been receiving reports of dogs worrying livestock whilst accessing the footpath network around the village. This is simply unacceptable, and the landowner has the right to shoot a dog doing so. Regardless of how well behaved you think your pet is, if crossing a field with livestock, whether sheep, cattle or horses please keep your dog on a lead.

Dog Fouling – please, please clean up after your dog – it has been Vale's policy for a number of years that any public bins can be used to get rid of the waste. If you see anyone allowing their dog to foul within the village without clearing it up, please report the matter to env.health@southandvale.gov.uk / 01235 422403, with details and photos or anything else that might help to identify the individual. The Environmental Health team will either issue a fine or seek to prosecute.

Vandalism

There appears to be a growing number of acts of pointless vandalism happening around the village – this has included the removal of the "Joyces Road" namesign, as well as the destruction of a wooden bench at the community woodland. If you see any such incidents or have dashcam footage of similar, please intervene or report the matter – these are completely unnecessary acts which absorb time, effort and taxpayers money to repair.

Speedwatch

Since our previous update, I'm pleased to confirm that we have been able to secure a dedicated Speedwatch device for use within the village, to deter motorists from breaking the law and helping to keep other road users safe.

Coronavirus Updates (As of going to press)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

New guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection

Next stage of COVID-19 public information campaign highlights guidance for households with possible infection.

Published 17 March 2020

From:

[Department of Health and Social Care](#) and [Public Health England](#)



New guidance to stay at home for 14 days if someone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19 is the focus of the next stage of a public awareness campaign launched by Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock 17th March 2020.

The new guidance will set out that individuals will still be asked to self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of COVID-19 symptoms but any individuals in the household will now be asked to self-isolate for 14 days from that moment as well.

If other members of your household develop symptoms, however mild, at any time during the 14 days, they must not leave the home for 7 days from when symptoms started.

The new phase of the campaign will build on the existing TV, radio, online, digital and billboard adverts currently visible all over the country. These reinforce the importance of washing your hands more often and for 20 seconds, and ask people to self-isolate for 7 days if they develop a high temperature or a new continuous cough, however mild.

Government has taken the further measure of asking whole households to isolate because it is likely that people living with others will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

The Prime Minister also today set out a number of social distancing measures to reduce the risk of infection from the spread of coronavirus. For those who remain well, are under 70 or do not have an underlying health condition, they are advised to limit their social contact where possible, including using less public transport, working at home and considering not going to pubs, restaurants, theatres and bars.

For those who are over 70, have an underlying health condition or are pregnant, they are strongly advised against these activities and to significantly limit face-to-face interaction with friends and family if possible. The government's public awareness campaign offers clear, practical advice so people can play their part in preventing and slowing the spread of the virus.

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves remains washing their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Make sure you cough or sneeze into a tissue, put it in a bin and wash your hands.

The awareness campaign also reiterates the importance of seeking help online by visiting [NHS.UK/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) to check your symptoms and follow the medical advice, rather than visiting your GP. It also urges people with any symptoms to avoid contact with older and more vulnerable people.

Only if symptoms become worse should people use the NHS 111 service. To ensure the phone service is readily available to those who need it, where possible people should use the 111 website rather than calling.

Earlier this month, the Prime Minister published a '[battle plan](#)' for tackling the disease in the UK, which sets out plans for a range of scenarios. Last week, the Prime Minister confirmed the UK has [moved into the second stage of this plan, the 'delay' phase](#).

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said: Coronavirus is the biggest public health crisis we have faced in a generation, and we will do whatever is necessary to protect our elderly and most vulnerable people and keep the public safe.

This is an unprecedented situation and it's so important for each of us to rally together and do our bit to protect ourselves and each other, as well as our NHS, from this disease.

Washing hands regularly for 20 seconds or more remains the single most important thing each of us can do, but we now also need to ask everyone in a household to stay at home if anyone in their home shows symptoms.

Combating this virus will require a huge national effort. We must do all we can to save lives, protect the NHS and keep the most vulnerable people in our society safe.

Peter Lewis

Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council

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Vandalism

Recent events within the village have caused disbelief amongst your Parish Councillors.

Millennium Green

This seems to be being used by Local Youths (not all from the village) who think it's OK to litter the place with Vodka (and other) bottles.

Not content with just littering, the trend recently has been to smash bottles in the playground of the primary school and around the green.

Entering the School premises out of hours and without reason to be there is classed as trespass. These points have been passed to the local police for greater enforcement action.

The main problems have been on Monday mornings when it has been very dangerous for the pupils going into school, after Sunday vandalism in the field!

Skateboard Park

After a group of local lads recently came to the PC asking our intentions for repairs and upgrades to the skatepark, we explained that we are waiting for a break in the weather to be able to make further repairs to the Half Pipe. For this reason, the Half Pipe was fenced off by a local business on our behalf, costing him his time and personal property to achieve this.

The fencing has been ripped apart on several occasions, and re-instatement is now impossible without further engagement from the local business. The Half Pipe itself is also being vandalised - the repair area that we started to repair has been targeted (witnessed) by youths smashing the area with rocks and other objects.

This mindless vandalism will ultimately result in any repairs taking even longer or may even mean we have to withdraw the half pipe completely, to comply with Safety requirements.

Kids- its your skatepark - Look after it, and please help us to do the same.

If you see 'others' doing mindless vandalism, report them to the Parish council or ring 101 and report to the police.

Our efforts to repair the Half Pipe will continue as soon as the 'spring' weather arrives!

Community Woodland

Recently some people have removed one of the benches and partly burnt it.

Thanks very much. The Parish council have no intention of replacing it, although we have discussed alternatives, such as a gallows, or stocks.

Litter Picking

Did you know that Frogmore Brook, which runs along Bow Road, is home to one of the most endangered mammals in Britain, the water vole – or 'Ratty' from Wind in the Willows as you might otherwise know him? In fact, they are so under threat that they are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

But this month, Stanford in the Vale WI have been doing their bit to ensure our water voles can prosper in a happy, healthy and clean home. As part of their centenary celebrations, they carried out a litter pick along part of the Bow Road verge, removing over 12 bags of rubbish that might otherwise have harmed our water voles and the other animals they share their habitat with. The WI also cleaned the signs as you come into the village and cut back some overhanging vegetation. And to bring some spring colour to our lives, they even replanted the flower box.

The Parish Council would like to thank the WI for giving up their time for the benefit of our community. Let's show them how much we respect and value their work by making sure there is nothing for them to pick up in future. We can do this by reducing what we consume, reusing what we can (including refilling containers), recycling where possible and, when we've exhausted those options, disposing of our rubbish responsibly.

If you have any questions relating to the environment in the parish, or any suggestions for how, as a community, we might work together to improve it, please contact Kevin Middleton on 01367 718395 or at kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com.



The litter picking team with their haul, about to go and enjoy a well-deserved cup of coffee!

The Countryside Code

We want all members of our community to be able to enjoy the benefits of being outdoors in nature. One way to do this is by exploring the network of footpaths and bridleways around us. If you are heading outdoors around our village for a walk, please take a moment to consider the other people and animals that you share the countryside with.

In particular, if you are taking your dog with you, please keep it on a lead around animals and take special care around horses. A horse can easily be alarmed by dogs and may be scared into running away, prompting a dog's natural instinct to chase. This can end up in an injury not only to the horse, but also to your dog if the horse kicks out in self-defence.

Following the Countryside Code

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code>) is an easy way to make sure that you can enjoy your walk while also respecting those you share the countryside with. Respect other people:

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs

Climate

Many of us are increasingly aware of the threat posed by climate change and the need for us to respond to it, both individually and as a society. You may have seen Sir David Attenborough's *Climate Change – The Facts* documentary and be wondering what can be done to stabilise the climate for us and our children. The parish council recognises that it has a role to play and, over the last few months, our environment sub-committee has been working on a Climate and Environmental Emergency Policy. The policy was approved at the February council meeting and is available to view on the parish council website. If you don't have access to the internet and would like a printed copy of the policy, please get in touch with Kevin Middleton on the phone number below.

The policy commits the Parish Council to taking an active role in:

- Encouraging and enabling our community to decrease their greenhouse gas emissions and improve their resilience to climate change.
- Reviewing the council's emissions an organisation and taking action to reduce them, where we can.
- Seeking to influence the policies of other organisations to encourage them to reduce their emissions.
- Adopting and promoting measures that encourage biodiversity and nature conservation within the parish.

We will be keeping you informed of progress through regular updates in the newsletter. We are also keen to hear about ideas you might have for ways in which our community might combat climate and environmental breakdown. If would like to discuss anything, please contact Kevin Middleton on 01367 718395 or at kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com. We can't promise we can act on every suggestion – some things may be outside our capabilities to change or influence – but we will listen and respond where we can.



Neighbourhood Watch Encourages Protecting the Isolated and Vulnerable During the Covid 19 Outbreak – (At Time of Printing)

You will all be aware of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Neighbourhood Watch exists to look out for communities across England and Wales and at a time like this we encourage you to consider ways to keep yourself, your loved ones and those in your community safe, particularly the isolated and vulnerable. We are following the advice from the government and encourage you to do the same: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

10 ways you, as a Neighbourhood Watch supporter, can protect yourself, your loved ones and your community:

1. Meet with household members, other relatives, friends and neighbours to discuss what to do if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in your community and what the needs of each person will be.
2. If your neighbourhood has a website or social media page, consider joining it to maintain access to neighbours, information, and resources. Alternatively, share phone numbers and email

addresses particularly with those who are isolated or vulnerable.

3. Consider establishing a 'buddy' system within your community to ensure everyone stays connected to COVID-19 related news, services and can receive support safely, such as essentials deliveries.
4. Plan ways to care for those who might be at greater risk for serious complications.
5. Choose a room in your home that can be used to separate sick household members from those who are healthy.
6. Learn how to self-isolate. Guidance can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/self-isolation-advice/>
7. Create a list of local organisations that you and your neighbours can contact in the event that one of you need access to information, healthcare services, support, or resources. Consider including organisations that provide mental health or counselling services, food, and other supplies.
8. Create an emergency contact list of family, friends, neighbours, healthcare providers, teachers, employers, the local public health department, and other community resources.
9. Learn about the emergency operations plan at your child's school or childcare facility, and your employer's emergency operations plan.
10. Practice everyday preventive actions including regular hand washing.

The NHS provides guidance on how to wash hands: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>.

The World Health Organisation provides guidance on basic protective measures: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention provides guidance on handwashing for families <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/handwashing-family.html>

Please note: whilst we encourage you to follow advice from UK Government we are also sharing links to organisations such as the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention an agency which works 24/7 to protect the safety, health, and security of America from threats here and around the world. Some of our key points above have been sourced from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html>.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention also published (14th February 2020) Interim Guidance for Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Homes and Residential Communities which you may find useful: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>.

Regards and keep well,
 Central Support Team at Neighbourhood Watch
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK
 Building Safer and Stronger Communities
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