

---

# STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL

---



---

# NEWS UPDATE December 2020

---

We continue to monitor both central and local Government guidance in relation to restrictions and it is evident that the majority of residents locally are abiding by the rules. Council was pleased that it has been possible for playgrounds to remain open this time, as we fully appreciate how important they are for youngsters. We regret that certain areas of the skate park have had to be closed temporarily due to wear and tear damage to the ramps, something that was highlighted during our annual safety inspection. Unfortunately, finding a route to repair these has proven less straightforward, but efforts continue to look at all the options surrounding repair or replacement.

### **Armistice Day**

A small memorial ceremony to the fallen was held on 11 November at the war memorial with wreaths laid by St Denys Church, the Parish Council and Stanford's uniformed organisations, in line with the exemptions granted from central Government. We are grateful to all who attended for adhering to the social distancing guidelines, but particularly to Darren Rolls and Nigel Archer for their assistance with the audio equipment and to Margaret Williams for co-ordinating the arrangements on the day.

### **Footpaths**

We are hopeful that the replacement bridleway bridge (Cottage Road) will be installed by the end of the year, and similar timescales for improvements to the stiles south of the river Ock. We have arranged for an additional step which has been installed to the footbridge crossing the Ock closest to Marlborough Lane, and following some feedback from a number of users, this will be adjusted to provide easier access for both walkers and dogs.

### **Dog Mess**

It was particularly disappointing to have a resident call me during October to report that a family member's grave had been defecated upon – you can imagine how distressing this was for the resident concerned. Whilst the majority of dog owners are responsible for their pet, there remain a small minority who, particularly as the nights draw in, believe that their social responsibility ends if they can't be easily seen. It is a criminal offence to allow your pet to foul in public and not to clear it up risks a fine of up to £1,000. Not being aware, is not an acceptable defence. If you witness someone failing to clean up after their dog, this should be reported to

Vale of White Horse District Council via [envirocrime@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:envirocrime@southandvale.gov.uk) or by telephone 01235 422126 with any relevant details or photos that might help to identify the owner in question.

### **QEII Recreation Field Update**

The majority of technical documents required to go to planning are now in their final iterations and we hope to be in a position to submit a renewed planning application before the next newsletter is published, and in the same timeframe to have arrangements in place to complete a water infiltration test to support the drainage calculations. We're particularly grateful to the PPC for their substantial financial support towards the Options Appraisal that was undertaken as part of this process.

### **Strategic Site Development**

We are waiting for the electricity contractors to return to properly reinstate the trenches crossing the A417 and Joyces Road which demonstrate very poor workmanship and are already breaking up. Prior to the latest lockdown, we were also challenging the groundworks contractors to resolve the traffic queues from the temporary traffic lights at the Ware Road roundabout. Hopefully, by the time the lockdown is lifted the works in this vicinity will no longer require temporary traffic lights.

### **Thames Water**

We understand that Thames Water obtained the necessary technical approvals from Oxfordshire County Council for the reinstatement of the bridge which carries the road carriageway over Frogmore brook. However, despite our escalating the matter through Thames Water's complaints team, the involvement of their regional managers etc. we are still to be shown a valid project plan and committed dates for reinstatement works. We continue to push them for a swift resolution and have highlighted how unacceptable their entire approach has been. Furthermore, we are also raising the issues of their previous trench works sinking on the approach into Bow Road from the B4508.

### **Low/night flying**

We are grateful to a senior member of RAF staff, and local resident who has brokered communications with the Station Commander at RAF Benson. The helicopters that routinely sortie over and around the village are part of the Operational Conversion Unit which undertakes a range of training flights on both the Puma and Chinook. It appears as though the issue

may stem from airspace restrictions in the vicinity, which results in numerous sorties above the village. Whilst there may not be an obvious route to resolve this, the Station Commander has agreed that his team will look into whether any form of mitigation might be possible.

**Peter Lewis**

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

**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)

Dear town and parish council colleagues,  
There are a lot of updates for you relating to Covid-19 support since we last wrote to you, including further government guidance for businesses. We'll start with information about the lockdown, and there are some other items of council business at the end.

**COVID NEWS - Community Hub**

We had a busy start to lockdown after we and the government both sent letters out to everyone on our list of Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents. We're now starting to get a picture of the level of support we will need to provide during the second lockdown, although we are making sure we'll have enough capacity should the situation change over time.

We've contacted all our voluntary groups and will stay in regular touch with them to let them know what we need from them, and that we're on hand to advise and support them where we can. On Monday and Tuesday alone, 63 CEV residents in South and Vale requested our support via the government's website.

We also had 70 emails directly to the council on those two days following our letter. We've contacted 672 people who had previously received government food parcels during the first lockdown, and we are now calling a few hundred residents who have only recently been added to the CEV list. Most of the people we've spoken so far are asking about financial support or just need help registering on the government's website.

As part of these initial calls, we have been able to link several people up with support from their local community groups, and we have also issued three food parcels ourselves directly to individuals who

needed immediate support. Please do continue to spread the word about our Community Hub, which is there for anybody who needs help, or feels like they might need it, through the lockdown and beyond.

As it can sometimes take a day or two for help to reach people, we're really keen to make sure people don't wait until they're desperate before contacting us, so please do emphasise this in any communications you do. The hub's details are:

- 01235 422600
- [www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub)
- [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

Open **8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday** and **8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays**.

**Business grants**

We're currently finalising the details of the two new Covid-related business grants that we will be launching very soon in our districts. We will let you have the full and confirmed details as soon as they're ready to share. In the meantime, here's a quick update on them both.

**Closed businesses**

We're currently finalising the application form for the grants scheme that's to help businesses that have been forced to close as a result of the lockdown. We will be launching this scheme on Monday.

This week, we have been working hard to identify as many businesses as possible who may be eligible for this grant so we can make the application and payment process more efficient. So far there are 1,714 businesses in South and Vale we've identified that we think are eligible, with another 63 that require further checks.

**Additional Restrictions Grant**

We're also expecting to launch the discretionary grants scheme known as the Additional Restrictions Grant on Monday. We'll provide the details as soon as they're finalised, but we're expecting this to be open to all businesses that won't be eligible for the closed business grants scheme outlined in the above article.

As ever, in the meantime, please signpost local businesses owners to our South and Vale Business Support website at: [www.svbs.co.uk](http://www.svbs.co.uk)

**What businesses can open during lockdown?**

We have been contacted by a number of businesses looking for clarity on whether they are legally allowed to open or provide limited services during the current lockdown. While most businesses have found this out for themselves by now, you may also be approached for guidance.

The government has published a list on [WWW.Gov.uk](http://WWW.Gov.uk) of essential businesses that are permitted to open and sets out the restrictions that some businesses and venues will need to follow until 2 December. The government's website has further guidance on the scope of restrictions and how to operate in a Covid-secure environment.

For further support, please signpost local businesses owners to our South and Vale Business Support website at: [www.svbs.co.uk](http://www.svbs.co.uk)



## PPC News

PPC would normally wrap up the year with an open meeting where we invite the many organisations and groups that we have supported to join us for a social get together. Covid put a stop that plan but we will make a time for this when it is safe to do so next year.

PPC has distributed £16,000 in Covid Support over and above normal Grants and remains ready to help further if required. Scroll down to the bottom of <http://ppcstanford.org/projects> for more information. We have also completed and submitted our Annual Report to the Charity Commission. It is available for public view on the PPC Website. <http://ppcstanford.org/about-ppc>

With more new SitV residents we are experience increasing demand for allotments, our waiting list is currently at about 14 applications but we are having some good discussions with the Parish Council about finding land for more allotments to provide for the growing demand. PPC has enjoyed a stable and balanced group of Trustees this year but there is still room for anyone who thinks they might like to take on the responsibility of such a role. If you are interested have a look through the website [www.ppcstanford.org](http://www.ppcstanford.org)

The PPC Trustees wish everyone in Stanford in the Vale a safe and enjoyable Christmas season and we look forward to a gradual return to more normal Village life in 2021.

Caryl Oliver  
Clerk/Correspondent  
[caryl.oliver@ppcstanford.org](mailto:caryl.oliver@ppcstanford.org)



[www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

## Artweeks May Festival 2021

To register visit [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

**OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS is open to ALL** amateur and professional artists/craft makers alike, galleries, community and charity groups that live or work in Oxfordshire.

### Deadline for registering exhibition entries:

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

(This is an extended deadline for 2021 only)

- May exhibitions will be required to be COVID-SECURE.
- If circumstances cause last minute wholesale changes as they did this year, venues will then be able to choose to mark themselves as Open/Open by Appointment only (as well as postponed/closed).
- Alongside the physical festival, Oxfordshire Artweeks will host a virtual festival over the same period.
- As it is unlikely the festival guide can be distributed in print in the normal way in 2021, it will be produced in digital versions only.

### **2021 Festival DATES are 1st-23rd May**

North Oxfordshire May 1st -9th

Oxford City May 8th - 16<sup>th</sup>

South Oxfordshire May 15th - 23<sup>rd</sup>

<b>Mike Dew (Clerk)</b>	-	<b>01367 710387</b>
<b>Cllr. Amanda Bailey</b>	-	<b>07777 691336</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. John Williams</b>	-	<b>01367 710705</b>
<b>Cllr. Karin WilliamsCuss</b>	-	<b>07771 614101</b>