



Skate Park Repairs

We realise that the half-pipe being out of action in the skate park is frustrating. The process of finding someone to repair it has not been straightforward, particularly as the parish council wanted to make sure that we found the right solution with the best value for money. However, after a lot of work behind the scenes, we do now have a contractor appointed to fix it (funded by the Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity). We are in their queue of jobs but a lot of suppliers are experiencing delays in sourcing materials, and this means that the repair date is difficult to predict. We'll continue to press for the work to be completed as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we would like to remind users that the half-pipe remains out of bounds and should not be used, as it is potentially unsafe. We have tried on a number of occasions to fence it off and affix warning signs, but on each occasion the fences have been moved and signs removed.

QEII Field

On the topic of facilities for young people in the village, we are still trying to overcome the final few hurdles to get planning permission for the first stage of our new community recreation facility project. The planning application itself was submitted in January of last year but it has been a substantial challenge for the parish council to navigate a planning system more accustomed to dealing with commercial developers. We have put a lot of work into developing a concept for the site and responding to the requirements of the planning process, including working up a detailed business plan.

We are working hard in the background to resolve the remaining objections and get the green light to start on the first stage of the project, which will be levelling the field to make it suitable for sports pitches. Once we have planning permission, we'll be providing some opportunities for residents to see our plans and contribute to our vision for providing the village with some improved facilities

for sport, leisure and enjoyment. If you want to know more about the project, the plans and other relevant details are publicly available at the district council's planning portal (<https://bit.ly/366qanO>).

Play Area Swings

We have also engaged a contractor to repair the broken swings in the play area. Again the date for the repair is subject to some supply chain uncertainties but we are pushing for the work to be completed as soon as possible. We are also taking the opportunity to upgrade some of the play area facilities and will also be installing a basket swing in play area.

Speed Indicator Devices

You may have noticed that the mounting poles for our speed indicator devices have now been installed on Cottage Road, Joyce's Road, Church Green and the High Street. We have also taken delivery of the devices themselves and in the next month we will be looking at getting them up and running. Research has shown that excess speed can significantly increase the chances of being killed or injured in a collision and that these devices can help to reduce drivers' speed, particularly if their locations are changed regularly. The two devices that we have bought will be rotated between the four locations and will provide us with data on vehicle speeds that may help with future planning for road safety within the village.

The cost of the devices themselves is being met jointly by Parish Council Community Infrastructure Levy funds and a grant from the Public Purposes Charity. The cost of the poles on which they are mounted is being met by Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department.

Footpaths

We have had several responses to our request for volunteer footpath wardens. Thank you to

those of you who have expressed an interest. We'll be in touch shortly to take things forward. We are also looking at organising some working parties for clearing local footpaths, dates to be confirmed but probably after Easter. If you would like to join a working party to help maintain our local paths, please drop Kevin Middleton a line (contact details in the newsletter) or keep an eye on the parish council website for forthcoming details. No previous experience needed, just a willingness to roll up your sleeves, enjoy some fresh air and exercise and help keep our local paths accessible for all.

Burial ground

As many of you will be aware, the churchyard is rapidly approaching capacity, and St Denys Church is therefore having to operate strict eligibility requirements for the remaining burial plots. If you, or someone you know, has a plot of land within the parish that you believe may be suitable for a future burial ground, then we would very much like to discuss the matter with you. This might be by way of a gift (or legacy) to the village, or perhaps by way of private sale. Please do contact the parish council clerk or chair if you wish to discuss this further.

Thames Water Road Closures

For some time now we have been in touch with Thames Water on behalf of residents to try to get a more joined-up and less piecemeal approach to road closures within the village, particularly given the history of successive closures in Bow Road. We are pressing for a more holistic approach in future, where work is better planned to minimise disruption and road closures. Our complaint has now reached board level in Thames Water and we'll continue to press the issue with them.

Village Noticeboards

You may have noticed that our village noticeboards have been looking rather tired recently. We now have two new noticeboards – one on the corner of Hunters Field and the High Street and one by the Village Hall – on order with a wooden design chosen to be sympathetic to the area. We have also introduced a noticeboard policy, a copy of which will be on display along with notices and also on our website.

School Parking

Following review with the county council and the school, we will be going ahead with having yellow 'School – Keep Clear' markings installed outside the school entrance on the High Street. We've given consideration to the wider layout and the associated parking problems, and the length of the lines will be tailored to the street layout. We believe that the keep clear markings will also help with congestion outside school hours as well as making it safer for children on the way to school by stopping parking right outside the school entrance. We will also be speaking to the district council about civil parking enforcement to ensure that the no-parking restrictions are respected.

We realise there is still a continuing parking problem on the junction of Hunters Field and the High Street, with some recent near miss-accidents. This is a more complex problem to resolve and we're discussing a number of solutions with the county council. As in many such aspects, these problems are best solved when we all try to make a difference so please avoid parking in the vicinity of the Hunter's Field school entrance, particularly at busy times. Parking is available for parents dropping children at school in the Village Hall car park, which is only a short walk from the school itself.

20 mph working party

The parish council is looking into the possibility of introducing a 20 mph zone in the village. Before any decision is made, there are a number of factors we want to consider, including how any such zone would fit within the existing village layout.

We're setting up a working party to consider the idea in more detail and explore what the options might be. If you have any views on this, we'd like to hear them. Please contact any one of your councillors if you have any thoughts you'd like to share with us on 20 mph zones or road safety within the village in general. Often these things can be complex problems and not every solution is accessible to us as a parish council but we're always happy to listen to suggestions or concerns.

Kevin Middleton
Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com



PPC News

Spring is in the air – albeit still a bit cold and there is a new sense of renewal around the Village as we start to emerge optimistically from the last two years of pandemic and all the fears it brought with it.

PPC was quick to change its grant giving rules in order to provide practical support to organisations in the Village struggling to deal with pandemic fallout – this flexibility has been well used and well received. We are even happier to see one or two projects that have been in mothballs for the last two years are now proceeding.

PPC has provided the funding to repair the skate park and supported the purchase of traffic calming equipment. We look forward to both those things improving Village life for all of us. We also look forward to seeing more new projects start to emerge again.

SitV Helpers – Tell us your story!

Nearly 100 Villagers have been kind enough to volunteer their time and energy throughout the pandemic to help others with transport, deliveries of essential items, running errands and generally being good neighbours. As we resume more normal lives, we think it is time to acknowledge these generous people and PPC is proudly supporting a special afternoon tea on Mayday (1st May) to say a formal thank you.

What we are asking of each of you is to share a story where you have experienced the help that has made a difference to you, something serious or funny – we would love to hear your voices as we thank the SitV Helpers. Don't be shy but if you do not want your name mentioned just tell us when you tell your story. Send stories, anecdotes, praise or comments to info@ppcstanford.org and we will collate them for sharing.

Allotments

There are more and more people living in Stanford in the Vale and so there is more and more demand for allotments. The waiting list is quite long, and some of those on the list have been incredibly patient. PPC and the Parish Council have a combined working group looking at places in the Village where we can arrange for more allotment sites.

The PPC Trustees are committed to continue giving Stanford in the Vale help and support that is the envy

of other Villages in the area and we look forward to us all sharing in the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee – but that is another story for the next newsletter!

Caryl Oliver

Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



**Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
Sunday June 5th 2022-At the Football Field
From 12.30 - 5.00 pm**

All Villagers are invited to come together and join in the 'Big Jubilee Lunch' event being organised on Sunday June 5th as part of the main programme of events over the weekend. There will be a Pig Roast/vegetarian BBQ available for a nominal charge and various challenges for children and adults.

We would like to encourage people to dress up in red, white and blue or fancy dress from one of the decades and bring along photos of past Village celebrations to share with others.

More details to follow next month.

You may like to get involved by decorate your house in red, white and blue decorations, Grow red, white and blue plants in your garden, organise your own street party. Any offers of help on the day would be greatly appreciated, contact Tina - tjenkinssitv@gmail.com

Parish Council, Football Club and Village Hall representatives.

Cllr. Amanda Bailey	-	07777 691336
Claire Lewis (Clerk)	-	07710 760894
Cllr. Mike Dixon	mike.dixon4@btopenworld.com	
Cllr. Simon Howes	-	07875 249265
Cllr. Mark Isaacs	-	01367 718719
Cllr. Tina Jenkins	-	07443 906150
Cllr. Peter Lewis (Deputy Chair)	-	01367 710166
Cllr. Kevin Middleton(Chair)	-	01367 718395
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Cllr. Janet Warren	-	01367 710789
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