



Climate Action Fund Grant

The parish council has recently been successful in obtaining a grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council Climate Action Fund. The application was made in conjunction with the school gardening club and the money will be used to fund the regeneration of a patch of garden to the side of the play area adjacent to the pre-school. Previously children from Stanford in the Vale Primary School gardening club had looked after this garden but, during the pandemic, they were unable to do so and consequently it has become somewhat overgrown and neglected.

This project has three principal aims.

1. Firstly, to rejuvenate the garden, transforming it into an area that promotes ecological restoration, allowing people to spend time in nature and appreciate the many benefits the natural world gifts us.
2. Secondly, to support and enhance the educational and developmental opportunities afforded by the school gardening club by involving the children in the design and construction of the garden, assisted by the club's staff and volunteer supervisors. Once restored, the children will continue to tend to the area.
3. Thirdly, to incorporate features into the garden, such as a lectern display board, that provide information on the vital role played by plants and gardens in tackling the climate crisis.

The specific activities of the project are:

- Planting that encourages biodiversity and provides food, shelter and habitat, such as plants that attract pollinating insects or provide berries for birds.
- Planting that stimulates the senses, such as scented shrubs, spring bulbs and tall grasses.
- Construction of bee hotels, hedgehog shelters, bat boxes and other habitats.
- Installation of a winding gravel path.
- Installation of a bench to sit alongside the path.
- Installation of a custom-designed lectern information board, designed by the children.

The project is due to start in September and the plan is to have the garden fully restored and rejuvenated by the end of July next year.

We expect the project to make a contribution to tackling the risk of climate breakdown on a number of levels:

- Connection and contact with nature has been shown to promote environmental awareness and encourage people to act on the climate emergency. There is also enormous, untapped potential for ecological restoration in gardens, particularly if they are planted in a manner that provides a rich habitat for insects, birds and other small animals.
- By involving the schoolchildren in the design and planting of the garden, they will learn about the important role plants and insects play in the web of life that is so crucial to our ecological wellbeing, in a way that is simply not obtainable in the classroom. Living through such a period of unprecedented environmental change places a heavy psychological burden on us all, but on the young particularly. Allowing the children to participate in positive steps to address the climate emergency will help them develop the understanding and resilience we will all need in the coming years.
- Providing information boards will serve to inform the wider community of the many benefits of nature and the steps people might take in their own gardens to encourage flourishing ecosystems. The boards will be designed by the children, and this is likely to be a particularly effective way of communicating to parents whose children are using the play area adjacent to the garden. The content of the boards will focus on the positive impact of gardens on the climate crisis.

There will be opportunities for the wider community to be involved along the way. There will be plenty of work to do to transform the garden and we expect to be organising a few working parties where all be welcome to come along and help us.

20mph Zone Working Party

Our working party has now held its first few meetings to consider the possibility of introducing a 20mph zone in the village. One area that we have identified as of importance is to make sure we take into account local opinion.

With that in mind, we are in the process of putting together a short survey to gauge people's views on the introduction of a 20mph zone. We plan to deliver a copy of the survey along with the next parish council newsletter at the beginning of October. Please look out for it and take the time to complete it. We recognise that a potential 20mph zone would be a significant change and we want to make the decision process as democratic as possible, so please help us in this by letting us know what you think.

QEII Field

We are continuing to liaise with the district council and our local district and county councillors to obtain planning permission for our new recreation field.

We have managed to resolve one of the remaining sticking points around the need for an archaeological survey and the parish council will shortly be commissioning the digging of some trial trenches to ascertain if there are any archaeological remains below the surface that might be damaged by the development of the field.

We are continuing to push for a resolution to the remaining issues around ecology and the landscaping design so that we can move forward with delivering a much needed facility for the village. 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.

Speed Indicator Devices

You may have noticed that our two speed indicator devices have moved from their previous locations on Church Green and the High Street to Joyce's Road and Cottage Road. As the devices are technically classified as temporary road signs we are required to rotate their positions at regular intervals. At the end of July the signs will be moving back to their former locations and we will

download and analyse the first sets of data from the Joyce's Road and Cottage Road locations.

Millennium Green Working Party

We are planning to have a working party in the Millennium Green from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 17th September to have a morning tackling some of the upkeep and maintenance jobs around the green. We would welcome any volunteers who would like to turn up on the day and join us. We plan to tackle jobs such as hedge trimming, weeding and general garden jobs.

If you have them, please bring 'heavy duty' gardening equipment, such as loppers, forks, wheelbarrows and gloves. And don't forget something to drink and a slice of cake to share at tea-break time!

Kevin Middleton

Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
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PPC News

We hope that everyone in the Village was able to participate in some of the various activities that celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Not only was it a chance to recognise this incredible milestone but it was also a chance for us to meet and connect with old and new neighbours.

PPC is delighted to have been able to provide support to a whole range of areas delivering different parts of the Jubilee, from roast pigs to live music to children's drink bottles!

You might also have noticed our flag flying proudly above the Church – a PPC funded rush job to be there in time for the fete! Even better, the clock is now running again to time.

You will have noticed the green (or red if you were going too fast) speed signs around the Village. PPC was happy to support this Parish Council initiative to make our streets safer and motorists more aware.

The Trustees are very sensitive to the changing nature of need and, while the underlying principle of PPC is to ensure the fabric of the Village,

we will continue to consider the circumstances of the times and deliver support where is best supports the Stanford in the Vale Community.

Caryl Oliver

Public Purposes Charity Stanford in the Vale



Theft of Domestic Heating Oil

With the rising in the cost of living, there has been recent attempts to steal domestic heating oil from tanks due to its increase in value. We are asking all homeowners to remain vigilant & offer the following crime prevention advice:

- Install an alarm on your heating tank to alert you of a dip in your oil levels – this can alert you from indoors or when you are out through your mobile. Make sure you display a sign above the tank to warn thieves that your tank is alarmed.
- Put gravel around your tank to make the area noisy so that it deters thieves & draws attention when any attempts are made.
- Try to hide the location of your tank through adding walls or putting plants around – all concealments must comply with OFTEC fire safety recommendations please see here: [Oil Tank Installation - OFTEC Requirements - Direct Water Tanks](#)
- Lock up your tank with a good quality all-weather padlock and give the code to your fuel supplier for delivery access
- Install CCTV to monitor your tank & show a visible deterrent for thieves
- Install security lighting to brighten the area as many thieves strike in the darkness of night

If see you any suspicious activity or wish to report a theft call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Stay Safe This Summer - Water Safety

With summer holidays just around the corner and warmer weather settling in, the South & Vale is full of rivers, streams & canals that may look inviting to many but could prove dangerous to even the strongest of swimmers. Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service warns of the dangers of open water & promote the following safety advice:

• Avoid walking on routes near water if you have been drinking alcohol

• Lakes, reservoirs, rivers often hide hidden dangers below the surface that could make people ill, cause injury or kill. This could be anything from a strong current that appears calm, large rocks to machinery; from shopping trolleys to branches, and even fish hooks or broken fishing line

• Never swim, even where allowed, after drinking alcohol

• Don't dive or jump straight into open water – this can cause potentially fatal cold water shock even on the warmest day with temperatures remaining cold in the water- even numbing limbs & claiming lives.

📍 If you fall in:

• Don't panic – lean back in the water, extend your arms and legs out and float on your back avoiding water entering your airway until the effects of cold water shock pass

• Try & relax until initial panic & gasping subsides

📍 If someone else falls in:

• Never enter the water to try to rescue someone – call 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service if inland and the coastguard if you are on the coast.

• Know your location to help emergency services find you-consider using location apps

• Throw a life ring or throw a line to them if one is near.

Anyone witnessing someone in trouble in the water should call 999 or 112 and shout for help.

Water safety videos & more information can be found via this link:
https://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/water-safety?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo

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