



## **A417 speed limit consultation**

The parish council would like your views on whether the speed limit on the A417 should be reduced to 30mph throughout the village.

With the building out of the River Meadow development on the west side of the A417, more residents need to cross the A417 to access the village school, shops and other amenities.

Currently, the section of the A417 in the vicinity, from before the junction with Cottage Road up to the approach to the Ware Road/Farm Piece roundabout, has a 40mph speed limit.

The parish council believes reducing the limit from 40mph to 30mph on this section of road would improve safety for all road users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists. This would bring the whole of the A417 within the village inside the 30mph limit. The county council, who are the highways authority, have indicated that they will consider a reduction of the speed limit to 30mph if a consultation demonstrates that there is sufficient local backing.

So the parish council is launching a consultation to gauge the level of public support. You can fill in the consultation, which has only one question, online at <https://bit.ly/sitvpc40mph>. If you don't have access to the internet, you can submit your views to the parish council chair, Kevin Middleton, by phone on 07815 052993 or by post at 21 Church Green, Stanford in the Vale, SN7 8HU. The survey will close on Friday 26th April.

## **New skate park teen shelter**

The parish council is intending to install a new teen shelter for the skate park and we'd like your views (and those of your children, particularly if they use the park) about what sort of shelter we should provide. We have set up a short online consultation where you can give your opinion on some of the potential shelters we have in mind.

If your children use the park, please either spend five minutes showing them the survey and then filling in the form, or get them to fill it in themselves. You can fill in the survey online at <https://bit.ly/sitvpcshelter>. The survey will close on Friday 26th April.

## **New councillor**

We're pleased to welcome Cllr Louise Bowers to the parish council. As always, should you wish to contact any of your parish councillors, you can find their details on the parish council website (<https://www.stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk/>) and in this newsletter.

## **Councillor vacancy**

Would you like to be involved with the future direction of your community? Are there things you think the parish council should be delivering for the village or particular issues that you think need addressing? Would you like to help to improve the place you live in? We have a further vacancy for a councillor to join our dedicated team of volunteers. We are looking for someone with an interest in local affairs who is willing to represent the council and our parishioners.

The parish council has three main responsibilities: representing the whole electorate within the parish; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life in the parish. No particular experience is needed and it could be argued the parish councils work best when councillors have a range of experiences, backgrounds and perspectives on life.

You will need good interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing. Experience of working with public bodies or voluntary/community groups would be an advantage but is not essential as training will be offered. You will be expected to attend our monthly council meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, and to be able to put some time aside outside meetings to keep informed on local issues and to move forward matters that you feel need addressing.

## **Replacement bins**

After some considerable chasing by the parish council, we have managed to get the district council to reinstate several bins around the village that had been removed, namely the general rubbish bin on High Street, and the dog bins on Joyce's Road and at the start of the footpath to Hatford. We have also managed to

obtain rubbish bins for both bus stops on the A417, near the Shellingford crossroads.

### Daffodil display

We hope you have been enjoying the display of daffodils on the village greens and verges around the village recently. The planting was funded by a generous donation from a parishioner, with some additional funds to top up the display contributed by the parish council, and were planted by hand by a parishioner.

### Gigaclear fibre broadband installation

We're aware that the recent installation of fibre broadband by Gigaclear has caused some damage to verges, pavement and other areas within the village. We're working with both Gigaclear and the County Council's digital infrastructure officer to ensure that all damage is rectified in a timely manner.

### Fly tipping and parish council bins

We've had a number of incidences recently of fly tipping around the village and of bulky items of domestic and DIY waste being left in the parish council bins. The bins are for the disposal of incidental items of rubbish that you might have to hand and not for bulky items or general household waste.

Household waste can be recycled or disposed of free of charge at household waste recycling centre on the A417, just outside the village. The recycling centre also accepts small amounts of non-household DIY waste free of charge with an appointment (bookable online). Further information is available at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling>.

Please do not leave bulky or domestic waste beside the parish council bins as this constitutes fly tipping. This is illegal and can lead to a substantial fine, which the parish council may seek to enforce.

### Kevin Middleton

Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council  
[kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com)



Data from Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, shows that **22,530 people** reported that their online accounts had been hacked in 2023, with victims losing a total of £1.3 million.

### On-platform chain hacking

This is when a fraudster gains control of an account and begins to impersonate the legitimate owner. The goal is to convince people to reveal authentication codes that are sent to them via text. Many victims of this type of hacking believe it's a friend messaging them, however the shared code was associated with their own account and the impersonator can now use it to access their account. Usually when an account is taken over, fraudsters monetise control of the account via the promotion of various fraudulent schemes, while impersonating the original account owner.

### Leaked passwords and phishing

The other predominant method of hacking reported is leaked information used from data breaches, such as leaked passwords, or account details gained via phishing scams. This becomes prevalent as people often use the same password for multiple accounts, so a leaked password from one website can leave many of their online accounts vulnerable to hacking.

- **Use a strong and different password** for your email and social media accounts. Your email and social media passwords should be strong and different from all your other passwords. Combining [three random words](#) that each mean something to you is a great way to create a password that is easy to remember but hard to crack.
- **Turn on 2-Step Verification (2SV)** for your email and social media accounts. [2-Step Verification \(2SV\)](#) gives you twice the protection so even if cyber criminals have your password, they can't access your email or social media account. 2SV works by asking for more information to prove your identity. For example, getting a code sent to your phone when you sign in using a new device or change settings such as your password. You won't be asked for this every time you check your email or social media.

If you live in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

If you receive a suspicious email, you can report it by forwarding the email to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: [Gov.uk/stopthinkfraud](http://Gov.uk/stopthinkfraud)

**Consumer scam alerts - Norfolk County Council** This website gives information on numerous scams that are currently circulating and on rogue traders.

**One recent example is fraudsters using QR codes to stick phoney QR codes on parking meters, redirecting people to fake payment apps.**

**Another scam that has been shockingly effective has centred on the sending of texts or WhatsApp messages to parents, claiming to be from their children and in financial distress.** For example, they might claim that they have lost their phone and wallet and so are using a friend's phone to ask for help. The idea is that the parent is sufficiently panicked by their child being in trouble that they are less likely to ask questions and simply send the money to the requested account as soon as possible. If you receive a message from an unknown number, claiming to be from a loved one in trouble, then it's important not to panic. **Ask questions that only the loved one could answer – even just confirming their name or date of birth – and make clear that money won't be sent until they are answered.**

**Paying your tax in iTunes vouchers**

Many of us understandably want to keep on the good side of the taxman which is why it is a bit scary if you suddenly get a call supposedly from HMRC warning that you have not paid enough tax, with the Police on the way if you don't settle your bill. The alarm bells should start going off though when the scammers posing as the taxman say that you can pay that missing sum through gift cards purchasable at your local supermarket. You just have to buy them and then read the codes down the line to the person on the other end of the phone.

The scam has been prevalent enough that HMRC itself has issued warnings about it, to raise awareness.

**There is some distrust around receiving unexpected calls supposedly from your bank,**

**so this scam focuses on addressing that trust issue.**

The scammer contacts you a few times, posing as your bank, letting you know that they had spotted a suspicious payment on your account and stepped in to prevent it. Over a couple of calls like this, they build trust with you, giving the impression they are on your side. Then there's another call, where the scammer says they need your help catching a fraudster within the bank, and in order to do that all you have to do is approve a payment. Even if you do find yourself trusting the person on the other end of the line, are they really going to need your help in catching a thief?

**To report a scam call received on your iPhone,** text the word 'call' followed by the phone number to 7726. On an Android phone, text the word 'call' to 7726, and you'll then receive a message asking you for the scam number.

**WhatsApp scam calls can be reported** by opening the WhatsApp chat with the dodgy phone number and tapping 'block'. You can report the contact by tapping 'report contact' and 'block'.

If you have been scammed, call your bank immediately using the number on the back of your bank card and report it to [Action Fraud](http://Action Fraud) on **0300 123 2040**.

If you get a suspicious looking email, you can report it to the National Cyber Security Centre by forwarding it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Remember not to click on any links within these emails.

<b>Cllr. Gerry Austin</b> <a href="mailto:machinemanasto@gmail.com">machinemanasto@gmail.com</a>	-	<b>07795 387606</b>
<b>Cllr. Louise Bowers</b>	-	<b>07879647763</b>
<b>Cllr. James Brooks</b> <a href="mailto:jamesahbrooks@gmail.com">jamesahbrooks@gmail.com</a>	-	<b>07464 056839</b>
<b>Casual Vacancy</b>	-	
<b>Claire Lewis (Clerk)</b>	-	<b>07710 760894</b>
<b>Cllr. Mike Dixon</b>	-	<b>01367 710713</b>
<b>Cllr. Simon Howes</b>	-	<b>07875 249265</b>
<b>Cllr. Mark Isaacs</b>	-	<b>01367 718719</b>
<b>Cllr. Bob Kent</b> <a href="mailto:bob_kent@btinternet.com">bob_kent@btinternet.com</a>	-	<b>07501 250407</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Lewis (Vice Chair)</b>	-	<b>01367 710166</b>
<b>Cllr. Kevin Middleton(Chair)</b> <a href="mailto:kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com">kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com</a>	-	<b>01367 718395</b>