



Household Waste Recycling Centre (the Tip)

Following the changes that Oxfordshire County Council introduced in January, advanced booking is now required before a visit to the recycling centre. Bookings can be made online by visiting <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/book-recycling-centre-visit> or by phone on 01865 519800 (8.45am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday and 8.45am - 4pm Friday).

Although we don't have access to usage statistics, anecdotal evidence is that usage has dropped off since the introduction of pre-booking. However, if you want to keep the tip, please do use it so there is no excuse for closing it down. The Parish Council is concerned about increased fly-tipping already and of course, if the tip closes completely this may get much worse.

We will continue to collect feedback on the new arrangements and would be happy to hear from parishioners with experience – both good and bad – of the new arrangements, which we can pass on to the county council.

Community Woodland

Once again, many thanks to Jude Bond and her amazing team of 'Stanford Woodlanders' for all their planting efforts. The team of volunteers are embarked on a program of hedge and tree planting to improve the biodiversity value of the woodland, to a plan drawn up by the county council's ecologist. New volunteers are always welcome and if you would like to join the group, please contact the parish clerk who can put you in touch.

On advice from the county council ecologist the most easterly path (by the hedge) in the wood has now been closed and a start has been made to plant it to create a better wildlife corridor. We have provided a substitute loop walk around the wood and the closed path is signed accordingly. Please do not use the closed path so that the new planting has time to establish.

Ware Road – Speeding and noise issues

The Parish Council are engaging with both Barratt Developments and the White Horse Business Park over issues around the speed of vehicles and traffic noise on Ware Road. The owners of the business park have already taken constructive steps to mitigate some of the noise problems by agreeing to the removal of speed bumps that were causing noise problems for nearby residents, particularly during unsociable hours.

However, we're aware that some issues with noise persist, along with concerns around vehicle speed. The Parish Council has no enforcement rights, but we are working constructively with all the relevant parties to explore whether further mitigations are possible.

QE2 Field - New Sports, Recreation and Community Facilities,

Last June, the District Council granted the Parish Council Planning Permission to use land immediately north of Cottage Road and east of Faringdon Road for recreation and sport. The Permission includes levelling what is known as the QE2 Field to make it suitable for the laying out of 4 new football fields, 2 of which are to be full-size. The Permission also includes an earth bund (raised bank) along the East side of the Field, whilst retaining the existing footpath and bridleway and also a permissive circular walk around the existing field.

The Parish Council has recently submitted detailed drawings and reports to the District Council in relation to conditions on archaeology, traffic management, drainage and ecology that must be discharged before work may begin.

Alongside this detail, the Parish Council has started work on the design and layout of the built elements of the scheme. These will form a second phase, to follow on from the levelling and laying out of the pitches, and will include:

- a flexible new pavilion for community use, hiring out for events and functions, together with a separate sports club

- new changing rooms
- a machinery workshop and store
- sports equipment stores
- vehicle parking and manoeuvring area, to include a new bus stop
- a new racquets area, able to accommodate 4 tennis courts.

There will also be a fitness trail, a retained and improved footpath and bridleway, a community orchard, and enhanced hedgerows throughout.

This work includes input from a range of consultants and experts, including planning, architecture, highways, landscape architecture, ecology, drainage, and engineering. The proposals are mainly funded by monies provided from the Nursery End and River Meadow housing sites under a 'section 106' agreement, whereby a developer agrees to make a financial contribution to the local infrastructure to mitigate the impact of new development.

Subject to planning conditions, we are planning for work to commence later this year and run across 2027 and 2028 with the target to have new sports pitches in place by 2029. In all this, we are very mindful of the need to minimise disruption to nearby residents during the works, and part of the process includes the drawing up of a plan to manage construction traffic, for which we are employing a specialist contractor. In the long term, we expect the project to benefit nearby residents, with the addition of car parking that will reduce congestion on match days.

Any queries about the project can be directed to the Parish Council Clerk in the first instance.

Village Wayfinder Trail

In early 2025, the parish council was awarded funding for a "Wayfinder Trail". The idea of the "trail" is to bring the history of our village to life by placing large stones from one of our local quarries in nineteen strategic locations around the village. Each stone will have a mosaic inlaid and a QR code. The mosaic will represent an aspect of the history of village life over hundreds of years, and the QR code will offer a link to the parish council website, where a more detailed explanation of the relevance of the siting of each stone will be explained, along with some historical content relating to the surrounding area.

Planning Permission has now been granted for the trail. It is hoped that we will install the first of the stones in the next 8 – 10 weeks and then our chosen artist can physically get to work on them. In parallel

with the planning permission, we are aware that an issue has emerged with the placement of one of the stones on the Bow Road estate in relation to a sustainable drainage feature. We are working with the landowner and the local planning authority to find an alternative placement and anticipate submitting an amendment to our plans before that particular stone is installed

Skate Park

The parish council has for some time now been exploring options for a replacement skate park. As part of this, we want to gather views on what a new park should contain and to this end we are launching a village-wide consultation.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a leaflet with details of the consultation and how you can make your views heard. We encourage all users, potential users and parents etc to engage with this. It's your facility so please tell us what you want!

Footpath STA 11

The footpath that runs from the end of Marlborough Lane, south of the river Ock to Hollywell Brook is to be enhanced this summer. After much lobbying by the Parish Council, Oxfordshire County Council have promised to repair the bridge deck over the River Ock at the downstream bridge and to provide a small replacement footbridge over the ditch where the bridge has broken.

Mike Dixon (1936-2026)

Mike Dixon, who passed away peacefully on 26 February, served as one of our parish councillors until ill health forced his retirement towards the end of last year. Mike was an active and committed local councillor, always ready to give freely of his years of skills and experience for the benefit of others. Mike's achievements as a parish councillor were many. He was responsible for the installation of the village speed indicator devices, championing the project from the outset and seeing it through from an initial idea to completion. Through his membership of the Public Purposes Charity and Village Hall Committee he helped to strengthen links between the parish council and like-minded local organisations, with the common goal of improving life for all in the village.

We will remember a man who was committed to public service and the welfare of his local community and who expressed this through his words and deeds. Mike brought a cheerful demeanour combined with a pragmatic, problem-solving attitude to our parish council. He could always be relied on for his wise counsel and will be much missed by his friends and colleagues.

Play area garden

If you are a regular user of the play area next to the village hall you may have noticed that we have recently completed our project to restore it. The final step, completed towards the end of last year, was the laying of some bark mulch to help with weed suppression and moisture retention. The garden was planted over last summer to a design drawn up by Nick Boden Garden Care, intended to provide visual and sensory interest and to be of ecological value to pollinators, insects and wildlife in general. Although the garden is dormant right now, as spring and summer come into view we expect it to come back into life with a display we can all enjoy.

We'd like to acknowledge the support of Vale of White Horse District Council Climate Action Fund, which funded the project, as well as the team of volunteers who, along with Nick, helped us to plant out the garden.

Additional Information

Your member of Parliament is Olly Glover (Lib Dem):
olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk

Your County Councillor is Lee Evans (Cons):
lee.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your County Council is Lib Dem controlled. They are responsible for schools, roads and footpaths, transport and travel, recycling facilities, children's services and adult social care; see:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

By the time this newsletter is published we will have a newly elected District Councillor following the election on 26th March.

Your District Council is Lib Dem controlled. They collect Council Tax and are responsible for planning, rubbish & waste services, leisure facilities, housing, benefit management and elections; see:
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

The Parish Council lobbies District & County Councils over issues in the Parish and scrutinises and comments on Planning Applications & Local Plans. The District Council decides most Planning Applications.

Your Parish Council by convention does not operate along party political lines. All councillors are unpaid volunteers. Our Parish Clerk is employed for 20 hours per week (normally Monday, Wednesday & Friday) – (please note the Clerk's new e-mail address). Contact Details are: clerk@stanfordinthevale-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council is responsible for:

- Church Green, Upper Green & Jubilee Green
- The play areas next to the village hall, on Nursery End and the aerial ropeway
- The QEII field
- The Skate Park and MUGA
- The Millennium Green
- The Community Woodland, Community Orchard & on Nursery End, both the willow tree park & strip woodland.
- Mowing some areas of the village on behalf of the County Council
- Litter picking – we employ a litter picker for several hours per week
- Setting the Village Precept (which is part of the Council Tax).
- Managing the budget for expenditure by the Parish Council in the village. The Parish Council spends substantially more than the Precept but raises all the rest of the money that it spends, on specific projects, through (non-domestic) rent, grants and similar applications. It has no debt

Contact details for your parish councillors

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Parish Clerk (Claire Lewis)	clerk@stanfordinthevale-pc.gov.uk	07710 760894