



Village Wayfinder Trail

The wayfinder trail was launched by writer, broadcaster, entertainer and former parishioner Pam Ayres at the village fete on Saturday 11th July and is now open, with working QR codes. A map of the trail is available on the parish council website, and a hard copy will also be made available before the end of July.

Pam was absolutely wonderful, spending time talking to old friends in the village and signing our celebratory tote bags. If any parishioners who were unable to attend the fete but would still like a tote bag (one per household please), contact Cllr Bob Kent (bob.kent@stanfordinthevale-pc.gov.uk).

The photographer will be sharing some of the images captured on the day and we plan to have a selection on the parish council website in the coming weeks.

We would like to thank parishioners Cliff Hill and Richard Ryan for checking some of the wording for the QR codes and generally being very supportive of the project.

The parish council is keen to add to the content of the QR codes, so if anyone spots an error, or can add something to the QR code (especially any photographs from yesteryear), please do get in touch.

The feedback from those that attended the fete was overwhelmingly positive and many suggestions were made for additional sites. There is funding available for further stones and the parish council will be considering a phase 2 of the project in due course.

The aim 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 has an inlaid mosaic and a QR code. The mosaic designs represent an aspect of the history of village life over hundreds of years, and the QR code offers a link to the parish council website with a more detailed explanation of the siting of each stone, alongside some historical content relating to the surrounding area.

Community first responder volunteers needed

Do you have some time to spare, and would you like to make a difference in your local community, while picking up some new, potentially lifesaving, skills along the way?

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) are now actively recruiting for people in Faringdon and surrounding villages, including Stanford in the Vale, to become Community First Responders (CFRs).

As a CFR, you'll help provide vital support to your local community by responding to medical emergencies before an ambulance arrives.

If you are interested, you can find out more and apply here: <https://tinyurl.com/ms6nfab6>

Applications close on 31 August 2026.

Community first responders (CFRs) are trained volunteers who respond to 999 medical emergencies in their local area. Dispatched by regional ambulance trusts, they often arrive on scene before an ambulance, providing crucial life-saving interventions in the vital first minutes of a medical emergency.

After both our longstanding CFRs stepped down recently, following many years of community service, we are without any CFRs within the village, and while ambulance services are not impacted (CFRs augment rather than replace the ambulance service), evidence has shown that having local CFRs can significantly improve outcomes when urgent treatment is needed, particularly in rural areas such as ours.

New parish council website and email addresses

In line with new recommendations and guidance, the parish council has recently moved over to a gov.uk domain for its website. At the same time, we have taken the opportunity to standardise the format of parish council email addresses.

The new website can be found at:
<https://stanfordinthevale-pc.gov.uk>.

Contact details for the parish clerk and all councillors can be found on the website and in the section at the end of this newsletter.

Stanford in the Vale Skatepark Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent skatepark survey, the response has been fantastic, and the results paint a clear and positive picture for the project.

An overwhelming **93.4%** of respondents believe a new skatepark would have a positive impact on the local area, and demand looks set to be strong, with over two-thirds of respondents (**66.9%**) saying they would use it at least weekly. The survey has also given us valuable insight into what residents want to see in terms of design, facilities, and safety measures.

We're delighted with this level of support and are now moving forward to the next stage: seeking quotations from prospective contractors and looking at funding avenues. We'll keep the parish updated as the project progresses.

Thank you again to everyone who shared their views, this project is very much being shaped by the community, for the community.

Community Woodland and Community Orchard

Following our report on damage to the community woodland in the last newsletter, the matter is now in the hands of the local police.

The Stanford Woodlanders – the group of volunteers who have been looking after both the woodland and community orchard – hope to replant in the future, and the parish council are exploring options and funding sources to support their work.

In the meantime, the parish council would like to thank again the Stanford Woodlanders for all their efforts, particularly in watering young trees in the recent very dry conditions.

If you would like to join the Stanford Woodlanders to help in their work conserving and enhancing our woodland and orchard, please contact the parish clerk.

Local Footpaths Update

The parish council will be repairing the approach to the footbridge over the Frogmore Brook over the next few weeks. This has been funded by our county councillor Lee Evans's Councillor Priority Fund and we are most grateful for the financial support to allow us to do this.

Separately the county council have committed to replace the footbridge over the drainage ditch on the footpath south of the River Ock (grid reference 34759340). These works should be completed in early autumn.

A footpath (technically an 'easement') to link the Bow Farm Estate to Horsecroft has finally (after almost 10 years of pushing from your parish council) come forward as a draft legal agreement and the parish council's solicitors are endeavouring to get this path on a legal footing in the next couple of months. Please do stick to the path and do not allow dogs to stray into the farmer's field.

QEII Field

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 QEII Field to make it suitable for the laying out of four new football fields, two 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 now secured discharge of all relevant planning permission conditions to enable phase-one levelling work to commence. The approved plans can be viewed at:

<https://tinyurl.com/3kwhi5f9>

A project manager has now been appointed and, in combination with the parish council working group, is drawing up a project plan to enable us to schedule and plan the works. Before levelling works can commence, we require an Environment Agency permit, which we are now applying for.

We anticipate levelling works running 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 has included the drawing up of a plan to manage construction traffic, which has now been submitted and approved by the local planning authority. 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.

In the meantime, there are ecological restrictions on when we can mow the field and thus the grass is currently rather long. Please do not smoke in the field in these particularly dry conditions (or indeed in any area where there is a fire risk) and keep dogs under control or on a lead, on the paths, until the field is mown to avoid disturbance to wildlife.

Additional Information

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

Your county councillor is Lee Evans (Con):
lee.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your county council is responsible for schools, roads and footpaths, transport and travel, recycling facilities, children's services and adult social care; see: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your district councillor is Lee Evans (Con)
lee.evans@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Your district council is responsible for collection of council tax, 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 and 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). 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.

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