

## **STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **AUTUMN EDITION 2013**

#### **HIGH SPEED RAIL 2 (HS2)**

At the end of May the Parish Council and the Stoke Mandeville Action Group (SMAG) met with members of the HS2 team for this area. Whilst steadfastly maintaining our position of objecting to the scheme, we continue with Bucks County Council, the National Trust and SMAG to work on mitigation for the village and Hawkslade should HS2 go ahead. We cannot afford to be complacent. It is too real and too damaging to our community.

The Parish Council together with SMAG and the National Trust is pursuing the realignment of the A4010 Risborough Road from the nursing home currently under construction to behind the Goat Farm on the other side of the line to Marsh Lane which it will cross and emerging, via a new bridge to be constructed in fields beyond, in Lower Road. In addition we are pushing for a spur road along the back of Nash Lee Road to meet with the A4013 Wendover bypass which will ease traffic for the Maintenance Loop away from Nash Lee Road.

These proposals would avoid the need for a large concrete bridge of 15m high across the track near Stoke House in Risborough Road, a similar bridge across Marsh Lane behind the school which will also take part of the parish council's allotment land. In total the small geographical area from Stoke House through the village centre to Marsh Lane is currently planned to take two large bridges (flyovers), three construction sites, Maintenance Loop sidings placed from Nash Lee Road to Stoke House which will be operational overnight and further afield the line passes close to a densely populated area of Hawkslade where many houses face outwards towards the track. Here houses will be seriously affected by noise far greater than estimated by HS2 Ltd in 2011.

The level of adverse affect in this area has been given as "major". Less than five houses in the parish have to date been identified as being eligible for compensation. However, it is becoming more apparent as plans for the route become advanced, that the impact of the ten year construction period due to commence in 2017 is likely to be as profound, or worse than when the trains are operational. The impact of huge lorries moving track, concrete and metal structures, bridges and thousands of tons of subsoil, leading to road closures locally and further afield as well as hundreds of workers, will affect us all. The increase in HGV traffic has been given as 30% during this period which will be routed from the M40 and M1 to sites in this area.

Responses from SMAG and the Parish Council to the recent Government consultation on the Draft Environmental Statement can be found on both the Parish Council and SMAG websites at [www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk) and [www.smag.org.uk](http://www.smag.org.uk).

The Parish Council has commissioned a four day baseline noise survey for which results are awaited.

#### **STREET FURNITURE**

- Litter bins on the playing field and on the green outside the school are to be replaced by new up to date models which will avoid being flooded with rainwater.
- Repairs have also been made to a number outdoor seats and two new seats have been provided on the Queen Elizabeth II Field. Sadly within 24 hours one of the seats had been wrenched from its mounting and removed. The seat is now back and has been secured but the cost of the repair has to come from local taxpayers.
- The notice Board in Dalesford Road is to be replaced due to wear and tear and has been temporarily removed.
- A plea has been received from Hawkslade residents to remind dog walkers who walk their pets on the pathway along the perimeter of the green area which runs behind the houses particularly the far end of the path towards the railway line, to remove their dog waste. A dog bin exists in Isis Close and three more are along this stretch of footpath. . To empty each bin costs the Parish Council three pounds a week so please use them.

### **OUTDOOR EXERCISE 'GYM'**

The bid to Sports England for £36k for an outdoor exercise gym as a Legacy for the Paralympics has been unsuccessful. The intention is to install exercise equipment on the playing field suitable for adults and with special features to enable people with disabilities to take effective exercise in a social setting. A new hard surface pathway linking the skate park, basket ball area, tennis courts, and the car park is also included as part of the bid. We will continue to make seek funding from other organisations in the hope that the project can go ahead.

### **ALLOTMENT ENTRANCE**

Plans to improve the allotment entrance to avoid a churned up green and mud on the road has had to be abandoned due to the prohibitive cost of £14k.

### **GRASS CUTTING – VERGES**

Buckinghamshire County Council which is responsible for the cutting of grass verges in the county has received many complaints about the unsatisfactory state of grass cutting. The work has been outsourced for this year on the understanding that it will be taken back in house next year. The Contractor has been called to account and it is anticipated that the second round of cuts will be improved.

### **ON STREET CAR PARKING**

#### **Village**

A well attended meeting took place in May between residents of Hampden Road, Eskdale Road and Arnold Close, Parish, District and County Councillors to discuss the problem of commuter car parking in residential roads near to the station despite much of the station car park remaining empty. The meeting was also attended by the local Police Community

Support Officer. The Parish Council has been engaging with Chiltern Rail in seeking a way to resolve the problems which exist in most commuter towns and villages along the route.

District Cllr Paternoster has since met with the Aylesbury Vale Housing Trust who own common land at Hampden and Eskdale Roads and advise that improvements are to be made at Eskdale Road.

In the meantime it is important that evidence is collated as to the numbers of commuters who are parking in side roads for most of the day and a survey is provided on the parish council website for residents affected by commuter car parking. To complete the survey via the Parish Council website go to 'Car Parking Stoke Mandeville village' and follow the link. The survey relates to cars which it is believed have been left by a driver using another mode of transport after leaving their vehicle. Arrangements are now being made to meet with the Planning and Transport Cabinet Member for Transport at Bucks County Council.

### **Kynaston Avenue/Winterton Drive**

We have been advised by the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust that a multi storey car park will be built on the Stoke Mandeville Hospital site by the end of this year. Whilst welcoming this news the Parish Council remains fearful that unless car parking charges are set at an appropriate and reasonable rate the on street car parking on nearby residential roads will remain.

### **ASDA Store Lower Road**

Highway works are being undertaken in connection with the ASDA store being constructed at the front of the Stoke Mandeville Hospital site and will comprise the following

- Carriageway realignment
- Relocation of existing pedestrian splitters islands, roundabout and bus shelters in Mandeville Road, Aylesbury and Lower Road.
- Provision of pedestrian crossings (Toucan crossings) in Lower Road and Churchill Avenue
- A new length of footway extending from Kynaston Avenue to serve the new pedestrian crossing in Lower Road.
- A ban on vehicles (except emergency vehicles) turning right from Lower Road into Entrance 2 of the hospital site. Traffic wishing to turn right into the hospital or access the store car park will be signed posted to the main entrance roundabout.
- A new bus stop is being constructed in the main entrance to the hospital.

### **OLD CHURCH SITE**

The old church site which had become overgrown has been cut back by Vale Countryside Volunteers. Wild flowers planted last year are beginning to flower and less invasive weeds are apparent each year. A Midland Hawthorn Bush which is a national rarity has been identified. Sadly should HS2 go ahead this site including the old graves, aged Lime and Horse Chestnut trees will disappear.

## **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS**

Local Development Orders are to be introduced by Aylesbury Vale District Council which will mean that householders who would normally have had to apply for planning permission for a single, first floor and two storey rear and single side extension to a detached or semi detached dwelling to do this as permitted development. Parish Councils will no longer be able to comment on these applications as is now common practice.

## **DECISIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Notification has been received from the local planning authority on the following applications :

### **Permitted Development**

- Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of one new dwelling. Longacre, Risborough Road
- Two non illuminated fascia signs. Freemantle Court, Risborough Road.
- Single storey detached outbuilding, 67 Lower Road
- Erection of agricultural storage building , Moat Farm, Marsh Lane.

## **CHOOSE FOR GREATER AYLESBURY**

The Greater Aylesbury Forum is a partnership of statutory bodies and other agencies, which includes the parish of Stoke Mandeville. Choose for Greater Aylesbury is a participatory budgeting project in for £17,500 which has been allocated by Bucks County Council towards projects.

Residents will be asked to consider and state their choices in order of preference by using forms available from various places around Greater Aylesbury and also on line. All projects must meet the local priorities and the maximum award to any one project is £4000. Projects must come within the following headings :

- Activities and facilities for young people aged 11 plus including anti social behaviour
- Reducing social isolation – including communities helping themselves /housing for the homeless
- Parking Issues
- More support for business
- Youth unemployment – including education provision – low attainment.

Voting on projects will take place during September and can be done at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road and Hawkslade Community Centre. For any queries or details on submitting projects, please contact Louise Willis on 01296 382241 or [clwillis@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:clwillis@buckscc.gov.uk) or Jackie Wesley on [jwesley@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:jwesley@buckscc.gov.uk).

## **JOIN THAMES ALERT**

If you live in Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas, you are invited to sign up to the Thames Valley Alert. This enables you to receive messages of information from Thames Valley Police and Aylesbury Vale District Council on crime alerts and witness appeals. Information can be sent by phone, e mail or text. To join visit [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) in order to sign up and be in the know!

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