

REVIEW OF DISTRICT ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Sincere thanks to all those who responded to the Local Boundaries Commission about the threat of splitting the village ward between two electoral Districts.

The Boundary Commission has now published its draft recommendations and states that they are not persuaded to divide Stoke Mandeville village between wards as this is a relatively compact community. They have therefore recommended that Stoke Mandeville village be part of the Stoke Mandeville and Wendover Ward. The Boundaries Commission also considered that the proposed boundary between Southcourt, Walton Court and Hawkslade provides for good electoral equality and proposed to adopt the Southcourt and Walton Court and Hawkslade ward. Stoke Leys and Stoke Grange will remain with the Coldharbour and Mandeville & Elm Farm Wards. All of these recommendations the Parish Council considers to make good sense.

If you have any further comments or wish to support these draft recommendations they are now out for consultation until 9th April and comments should be sent to consultation@lgbc.org.uk.

HIGH SPEED RAIL 2

The two ‘drop in days’ held at the Community Centres in Hawkslade and Eskdale Road at the beginning of January saw around one hundred and fifty visitors who had come along to see the Environmental Statement recently published by the Government giving details of the scheme and how it would affect communities. Comments on the Environmental Statement were required by 27th February and it is hoped that as many people as possible responded.

The Environmental Statement includes the diversion of the Risborough Road [A.4010] to avoid the building of two originally planned large bridges of 18m high across the track in Risborough Road and Marsh Lane as well as three construction sites. The “bypass” will draw off the Risborough Road behind the Goat Farm and continue further back across fields following the rail track which the road will cross by a bridge to emerge at a new roundabout in Lower Road. Risborough Road will be closed off both sides of the track but with a pedestrian underpass and Marsh Lane will also be closed both sides of the HS2 track where the diverted A4010 will link again into Marsh Lane. The road will be funded by HS2 Ltd as part of mitigation proposals.

There is still much to be discussed with HS2 Ltd such as construction traffic routes, the use of Chiltern Rail for the transfer of sub soil, noise barriers throughout the village and Hawkslade. Four construction sites in the village with
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Any individual or body can petition against anything to which they object or wish to promote in a Hybrid Bill if they directly affected – including those representing the interests of people and businesses within the Bills limits. A meeting organised by the Parish Council and SMAG will take place on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room of the Eskdale Road Community Centre to enable residents to ask questions and to discuss the proposed diversion “bypass”. If you wish to view copies of the detailed drawings of the route and how this could affect you, please telephone the PC Office 01296 613888 between 9 am – 1 pm.

CO OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Following the advertisement of a casual vacancy for Stoke Leys Ward, Mr. Marcus Rogers has been co opted as the new member in place of Mr. Mungo Duncan who resigned last year. Mr. Rogers lives in Kynaston Avenue and his term of office is until May 2015.

PRECEPT

At this time of year Parish Councils set their precept for the forthcoming financial year – April 2014 until 31 March 2015. This is the sum which is collected by AVDC from the Council Tax of parishioners and is forwarded to the Parish Council for the running of the Parish. For the financial year ahead the Parish Council has increased the precept by 2% to a total of £90,888 which an increase from £39.04 pa to £39.82 pa for a Band D property.

ROADSIDE PARKING

The problems continue and a meeting with Chiltern Rail about commuter car parking which took place during November brought no solution. Chiltern Rail maintains that the problem is not of their making as a car park at the Station is provided and is seldom filled to capacity. They suggested that the only solution was to put in parking restrictions or a resident parking scheme. The Council is to approach Chiltern Rail to see if they can provide funding for parking restrictions in the village and "three for free" posters are to be displayed to encourage car sharing to Stations. A tool kit produced by Bucks County Council for on street parking is to be obtained.

A well attended meeting organised by District and County Councillors for Stoke Leys took place at Booker Park School in January about the effect on householders of indiscriminate parking. A draft Experimental Traffic Regulation Order had been drawn up by BCC which included a mix of yellow lines at road junctions and corners which would be effective every day at hours to be agreed. Residents are being asked to vote on whether they agree with the proposed experiment for car parking.

STREET LIGHTING

The Parish Council is reviewing the provision of street lighting in view of a change in type of lights from those currently used not being available after April of this year. A number of streets still have aluminium columns necessitating 21 to be replaced. The installation of LED lighting which is thought to be more environmentally friendly, requires less maintenance and is more cost effective is also under consideration.

BURIAL GROUND

Work is to take place is clearing up overgrown vegetation and bushes from the Burial Ground in Swallow Lane and also overgrowth from Graves. The burial ground belongs to the Parish Council which is also a Burial Authority. The affected plots are

Row 6, plot 4	Row 2, plot 6	Row 2, plot 12
Row 5, plot 19	Row 7, plot 14	Row 7, plot 17
Row 8, plot 14	Row 8 plot 18/19 (double width plot)	Row 10, plot 22
Row 11, plot 20	Row 12, plot 9	

If you or any person known to you has responsibility for any graves in this area, please contact the Clerk with any concerns you may have.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The application for provision of a temporary car park at Stoke Mandeville Hospital has been withdrawn.

Decisions on Planning Applications made by AVDC the local planning authority are as follows:

Permitted Development

- Front and Rear Extension 14 Walnut Close, Stoke Mandeville
- Widening of Access Road, Chiltern View Nursery, Wendover Road, Stoke Mandeville
- Single storey rear extension 17 Castlefields, Stoke Mandeville
- Temporary building to be used as tea room Com Dev Europe, Triangle Business Park
- Single storey side and rear extension 247 Wendover Road, Aylesbury

NEWS BITES

- A replacement Notice Board has been provided at Dalesford Road
- New Play equipment is now in use at the Eskdale Road Childrens' Playground

- A new dog bin has been installed at Orchard Close
- New litter bins have been provided along Risborough Road
- Considerable litter is being left at the parish footpath along the car park to the rear of Stoke Mandeville Hospital mostly cardboard coffee cups. This is an offence so those responsible please take your litter home with you as it costs residents as council tax payers to have this removed. Another litter bin is to be provided.

MEETING OF the Council for the remainder of 2014 are:

11 th March	8 th April [Parish Annual Meeting]
13 th May [Annual General Meeting]	10 th June
8 th July	12 th August [provisional]
9 th September	14 th October
11 th November	9 th December.

All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Committee Room of the Eskdale Road Community Centre.

Council meetings are open to public and press and there is an open session at the beginning of each meeting to enable residents to ask questions or to draw issues to the attention of the Council.

A list of the dates for Council meetings and Committee meetings are on the notice boards in the parish.