

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL SUMMER EDITION 2014

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting for Parishioners takes place every year and is an opportunity for residents to meet with their Parish Councillors and share ideas and concerns. This year also saw a presentation by the East West Rail consortium about the new rail link to be re established between Cambridge and Oxford to improve rail services between East Anglia, Central and Southern England with enhanced connections to national mainline rail services. The western section involves upgrading and reconstructing disused sections of the former railway between Bedford and Oxford, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury with a new station at Winslow. Proposals for the link between Aylesbury to London via Princes Risborough will be included using the current Chiltern Line passing through fields within the Parish, crossing HS2 and continuing via Marsh Crossing. The new scheme will connect Aylesbury to Bedford, Milton Keynes, Winslow, Bicester, Oxford, Didcot and Reading. Unlike the high speed rail coming our way East West Rail will have positive benefits to local communities. Work should begin in 2019. We were disappointed this year to see so few parishioners at the meeting which was well advertised. The report of the Chairman can be found on our website.

High Speed Rail 2

During the past two months the Parish Council has made a formal resolution [in accordance with Government legislation] to Petition against the Government's Hybrid Bill in respect of HS2. We have appointed a Petitioning Agent and are working alongside the Stoke Mandeville Action Group Against HS2. Our Petition has to be handed in by 23 May and we have included - Improvements in noise reduction and visual mitigation especially where the train passes across the back of Hawkslade; the Realignment of the A.4010; Mitigation against the Maintenance Loop; the Excavation of remains and artefacts from St. Mary's old Church off Risborough Road with relocation to a suitable purpose built site nearby; Mitigation for schools in the Parish in respect of safety issues during the period of construction and for adequate noise mitigation when operational; the use and management of 'haul' transport routes; completion of the bypass before any other construction work commences; consistent height and positioning of noise barriers throughout. For further details about the Petition visit the Parish Council's website after the end of May on www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan for Stoke Mandeville.

Local communities are able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for their areas putting in policies for the future development and growth of the neighbourhood. A neighbourhood plan is a community led framework for guiding the future development and growth in the area. It can contain vision, aims and proposals for improving the area or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. The Plan is subject to examination and a referendum of the residential population and can then form part of the Local Development Plan if successful in meeting the criteria. If successful the Plan must be used for determining planning applications. Community engagement is a necessary and important part of producing a Neighbourhood Plan but the Parish Council cannot do this alone. The support and involvement of local people is especially important because it has to be a plan from the local community. We need residents to work with us and be part of a NP Community Group. The work is not onerous but will be steady over a period of time. If you are interested, or have planning or other skills please contact the Clerk on smparishcouncil@btconnect.com and ask for a copy of the Roadmap Guide on Neighbourhood Plans.. We hope to bring a group together during June and look forward to hearing from you.

Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign [MVAS]

The Parish Council has been awarded funding from the Wendover & District Local Area Forum and also from Wendover and Stoke Mandeville Village County Councillor, Chris Adams, community leaders fund, to cover the cost of a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign in an attempt to reduce speeding traffic in the village. The MVAS is a LED traffic sign similar to that already placed in Station Road. It is activated by approaching vehicles exceeding the pre set speed threshold and which will flash a warning with a 'SLOW DOWN' display. It is also possible to retrieve information from the equipment. The MVAS will be shared with Weston Turville Parish Council and is able to be moved around to four sites in Stoke Mandeville, being Wendover Road, Station Road, Lower Road and Risborough Road at points where speeding traffic has been identified. We need volunteers especially anyone owning a truck to assist to move the MVAS between sites. If you are able to help, please contact the Clerk on 01296 613888.

Parish Council Budget

For the financial year ending on 31 March 2014, the Parish Council's income was £120,419, of which £82,222 was the precept – ie the Council's share of the Council Tax allocated for the administration of the Parish. Expenditure amounted to £107,097. The under spend from the year will be set aside in order to meet the significant cost of replacing a large number of outdated street lights for which replacement parts are no longer available. In addition Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity granted £10,000 towards the cost of cutting the Playing Field, the upkeep of the old St. Mary's church site, emptying of dog bins and general maintenance around the Parish. Town and Parish Councils are not as yet capped nor subject to holding referendums on Council Precepts. We are pleased to report that Stoke Mandeville continues to maintain one of the lowest Council tax charges in Aylesbury Vale. The full audited accounts will be displayed on parish notice boards and the Council's website.

Car Parking Stoke Leys

Following the meeting of residents last January on car parking options and the subsequent survey undertaken by Buckinghamshire County Council, a decision is still awaited as to whether the Experimental Traffic Order [ETO] will go ahead. An ETO is supported by Aylesbury Vale District Councillors for the Mandeville District ward and also by the Parish Council. However, the ultimate decision rests with Bucks County Council. Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust has advised that the new multi storey car park for Stoke Mandeville Hospital is still going ahead.

School Crossing Patrol "Lollipop Lady"

Janice Worger achieved her 25th anniversary of seeing children, their parents and carers safely across the busy road junction of Lower, Risborough and Station Roads, on their way to school. This is a role which deserves recognition as "lollipop" ladies are on duty in all weathers and deal with many different situations. To show their appreciation Stoke Mandeville Combined School invited Janice to a celebration assembly when she was presented with gifts. The Parish Council presented her with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her service. The crossing in Stoke Mandeville is particularly difficult not only because of the continuous and often heavy traffic but also due to the current number of potholes and split seams in the road. We understand from Transport for Bucks that the roundabout will be resurfaced at the same time as the bottom end of Station Road which should take place during June.

Hawkslade

Three Park Benches are to be provided along the stretch of green at the top end of Anton Way, Parslow Close, Sheridan Way and Westfield. Funding comes from the Parish Council's Development Improvement budget. We are also to receive Section 106 monies totalling £112,004 from the

developers of the houses built in Wiseman Close. The funding is to provide leisure facilities in the area. We are therefore keen to hear from residents about their ideas and suggestions as to what is needed. It is our understanding that a play area will be provided with the development adjacent to Isis and Oats Close but there may be other facilities which you would like to see at Hawkslade. This funding does not need to be spent straight away but in the meantime we would like to receive ideas from you. Please ring 613888 with suggestions and ideas or email smparishcouncil@btconnect.com.

In Brief

- Dog fouling in public areas at Hughenden Green has been reported. We ask that all residents clear up any mess made by their dogs and use the red dog bins provided.
- With the lighter evenings there has been considerable litter left around the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field especially near the skate park. Two new litter bins have been provided which are emptied at the expense of the taxpayer – please use them or take your litter home with you.
- Transport for Bucks are responsible for cutting the grass verges in areas with a 30 to 40 mph speed limited. Grass cutting should on verges and green spaces should have commenced at the beginning of April and cut every five weeks. Please direct any concerns you may have to TfB..
- We were appalled to see brown scorch marks around posts, seats and equipment at the Eskdale Road Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field. This has been caused by the grass cutting contractors who advise that they will re-seed later in the year. We hope that this has some success and our field is returned to its former green glory.
- The Parish Council has a new website at www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk
- Aylesbury Mains have been commissioned to test and certify all street lights belonging to the Parish Council
- An oak replacement notice board has been commissioned at the entrance to Kynaston Avenue [Lower Road]
- A new door is to be provided at the Community Centre
- The Council has reported to BCC two dead trees at the junctions of Old Risborough Road and the junction of Marsh Lane which require lopping
- Notice received from Thames Valley Alert on safety of gold jewellery in homes is displayed on our website .
- A packed public meeting organised by the PC/SMAG on 25th February heard about the diversion of the A.4010 in connection with HS2 to which there was resounding support.
- A new logo has been developed for the Parish Council to be used on stationary, documents and public notices
- Recycling bins have been removed from the car park at the Community Centre. Those remaining for use are for the Air Ambulance Service and Variety Club of GB [shoes]. All other objects for recycling should be taken to Recycling Centres at Aston Clinton or Rabans Lane. Please do not leave in the car park. We do not have means of disposal.
- The Council has again entered the Best Kept Village Competition for which judging takes place during June. Please help keep the outside areas tidy, no litter or advertising on unauthorised places eg telegraph poles as this loses us points.
- The Council are seeking to replace the wooden 'bus shelter on Wendover Road because of rot.
- Aylesbury Vale District Council are offering taxi tokens to the value of £90 instead of 'bus permits to provide a beneficial lifeline for essential journeys for those in need who are of pensionable age or with disabilities.. You have to be a resident within the AVDC area or live in a village within the District. You can find out further details by accessing our website or by ringing Lynne Maddocks on 01296 585364
- Bucks County Council has made it easier for everyone to report fly tipping. Just use your PC, laptop, tablet or smart phone by contacting <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/fly> and follow the instructions. You can also upload a photo of the illegally dumped waste. For further details please look on our website.

Planning Applications

Decisions have been received from AVDC on the following planning applications :

- Felling of Ash Tree – Ash Tree House, Risborough Road – Permitted
- Removal of existing garage and chimney and erection of single storey rear and side extension – 16 Station Road
- Whiteleaf Medical Centre, Old Risborough Road - Removal of conditions from planning consent for permitted development for Medical Centre, No 2 [restriction of practitioners], No 3 [hours of operation] and No 5 [use of staff accommodation, .leading to use of building for residential accommodation]. – Permitted.
- Single storey and first floor side extension to 12 Hughenden Green, Aylesbury

Jenny Hunt
Chairman
Stoke Mandeville PC
1st May 2014