

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMER EDITION 2013

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 2nd May and was attended by parishioners and guests. The Chairman presented her Annual Report and spoke of events which had taken place throughout the year. She said that much of the work of the Council was ongoing and often there were issues outside the remit of the Council and which they did not have the power to resolve. One of these was on street parking by commuters on roads around the Station and by hospital staff and visitors on roads near to Stoke Mandeville Hospital. She said that the Council welcomed comments from residents and suggestions for improvement, many of which had been implemented during the year. The meeting was followed by the naming of the playing field by Patrick Martin, Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Playing Fields Association, to be known as the Queen Elizabeth II Field Stoke Mandeville. Display boards kindly donated for the event by Bucks County Council brought together a 'Year of Celebration in Stoke Mandeville' showing the history of the Paralympics, a slide show on the journey of the Olympic and Paralympic torches through the parish on their way to London. Also shown were scenes from Stoke Mandeville Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the planting of the Jubilee Oak donated to the parish by Aylesbury Vale District Council. Finally, a film narrated by Geoffrey Palmer, showing the route and countryside of HS2 from London to Birmingham. A copy of the Chairman's report outlining activities of the Parish Council during the past year is available on the Council's website and copies of the DVD about HS2 can be obtained from the Parish Council office or the Post Office at a cost of £5 each.

TREE WARDENS

We are seeking a volunteer or volunteers from within the Parish to act as tree warden[s]. Duties are not onerous and involve keeping an eye on trees in hedgerows or on roadside verges and advising the Clerk if any need attention. For those who exercise their dogs, run or jog along the footpaths and are willing to help please contact the Clerk on 613888.

CHANGES TO ALLOTMENT ENTRANCE

Wet weather during the past two winters has meant that the entrance to the allotments in Lower Road has become impassable. Discussions are taking place with Bucks County Council [owners of the verges] and contractors about providing a hard surface to allow vehicles to park

without churning up the grass verge. Because the Parish Council does not own the land there are limitations on what can be done and a number of solutions are being considered.

OUTDOOR 'GYM'

In celebration and as a Legacy of the Paralympics, the Parish Council is attempting to raise funds to provide an outdoor 'gym' on the playing field which would be accessible to all including older people and those with disabilities. A new footpath linking the outdoor gym to the tennis courts, basketball area and skate park will also be included. In a recent survey of residents, sixty per cent of those surveyed responded positively and said they would use such a facility. Appropriateness of equipment is being evaluated, bids submitted to Sports England and other funding organisations. The amount of money to be raised is about £30k.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Further equipment is being ordered for the children's playground and with the support of the Pollyanna Playgroup a 'nest swing' and an all inclusive roundabout has been selected. The 'nest swing' will allow for more than one small child to use it at a time and the roundabout will be able to take children in a pushchair or a wheelchair.

ROADSIDE PARKING

Ongoing complaints about roadside parking continue from residents in Hampden Road, Orchard Close and Arnold Close. The perennial problem of roadside car parking in Kynaston Avenue and Winterton Drive by hospital staff and visitors shows no indication of reducing. The Parish Council has met with Chiltern Rail and as a result permanent signs have been placed at the station asking drivers to be considerate to residents and observe the Highway Code, which states you must not park a car within ten metres of a road junction or on a bend. Discussions are continuing with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Buckinghamshire County Council and also ASDA who have now taken possession of land at the front of the hospital site. It is understood that plans for a multi storey car park at the hospital should come to fruition later in the year. If there are any issues arising from the ASDA site which causes car parking problems, please contact the Clerk on 613888 and we will raise these with the developers.

SPEED CHECK RESULTS

Two speed checks have been done by Councillors in Lower Road using speedwatch equipment. On the first occasion during February the average speed of vehicles between Old Hall Farm and the hospital was recorded as 38mph [speed limit 40mph]. On the second occasion during April and near the 'zebra' crossing in Lower Road the speed was recorded as 39.5mph in the afternoon and 37.2mph in the morning. There were no issues of cars braking for

the 'zebra' crossing. Additional traffic warning signs are being requested from Bucks County Council. Speed checks are scheduled for Wendover Road and Station Road..

LITTER ON PLAYING FIELD

It is disappointing to note the amount of litter which is left lying on the playing field especially after a week end. Although additional litter collections are provided during the summer months the amount of litter does not decrease. To drop litter in a public place is an offence and can result in a fine. Please use the litter bins provided.

Likewise many people who bring their dogs to the field for exercise do not keep their dogs on a lead and in some cases do not clear up dog mess and use the bins provided. Anybody caught leaving dog mess can face a fine of £1000. If you use the field to exercise your dog, please keep the dog on a lead. Most of us love dogs but not all people do and young children can become frightened by an over exuberant pet. Please be considerate to others and remove dog mess and do not put children at risk through toxocariasis.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following decisions have been received from Aylesbury Vale District Council:- .

Permitted Development

Crowning of Sycamore Trees, 20 Castlefields.

Refused

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage/office building. Longacre, Risborough Road.

SCANNERAPPEAL OPEN GARDENS 2013

Scannerappeals Open Gardens scheme for 2013 has been launched to raise funds for life saving equipment at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. From April to September fourteen gardens are open in Buckinghamshire. For further details e mail info.scannappeal@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk or telephone 01494 734161

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES ARMED FORCES DAY

Armed Forces Day will take place on 29th June 2013 from 1pm – 9pm at the Aylesbury Rugby Club, Weston Turville. 10,000 people from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes are expected to attend the event. Members of the Armed Forces are able to attend for free as a thank you from the local community and this includes Veterans, Reservists, Cadets, Forces Families and both Serving and Ex Personnel. Around 200 volunteers are needed to help out on the day in setting up equipment, acting as stewards, runners, working on kiosks and taking down equipment

after the event. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please e mail Bucks Events at Bucks County Council. For more information please visit Armed Forces Day or phone 0845 370 8990.

ART IN BUCKS

Bucks Open Studios takes place between 8th – 23 June. Over 500 artists and makers from the county including painters, glass workers, basket weavers, metal workers, wood turners, jewellery makes etc. will be opening their studios to the public for free and showcasing their work. Find out more visit Bucks Open Studios on Bucks County Council website.

Jenny Hunt
Chairman
Stoke Mandeville Parish Council
3rd May 2013