

## **STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Installation of Outdoor Gym at Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field**

If you have recently visited the playing field in Eskdale Road you will have noticed the new pieces of outdoor gym equipment which has been installed including lat pull, chest press, cross rider, leg press, exercise bars, skier, air walker, seatless arm bike and seatless lat pull and chest press combi. All of this has been made possible by the securing of grants from the Suez Communities Trust, Aylesbury Vale Community Chest and the Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity to celebrate Stoke Mandeville's association with the Paralympic Games. Most of the equipment can be used by people with a disability and a new hard surface footpath has been provided linking the outdoor gym with the children's playground, tennis courts, table tennis, basket ball net and the skate park.

### **High Speed Rail 2**

The process of consultation is nearing its end after six years of protests and campaigns, travelling far and wide to attend meetings, working with others through emails and social media, appearances at events, exhibitions, discussions with the Promoters, MPs and Ministers and presentations to two Ministerial Select Committees. Should the scheme be agreed in Parliament as part of the Queen's Speech, it moves to the Statute book and work will commence early in 2017. We have kept you involved within the pages of this magazine, public meetings and leaflet drops. However, as work progressed we recognised the need to press for mitigation to reduce the serious visual and noise affects from a train travelling at 325mph through our Parish. The first of these was to seek a diversion of the A4010 Risborough Road to avoid the construction two large flyovers planned for the Risborough Road and across Marsh Lane just behind the village school. We were successful and the proposals for the diversion remains in the HS2 Environmental Statement. This still left much to be done and both the Parish Council and SMAG have continued to Petition the Select Committees of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords with the following "asks"

- An extended cutting in the fields behind Hawkslade
- Improved sound mitigation across the Parish
- Better visual screening
- Improved compensation and support for businesses and enterprises to be affected by the scheme
- Undertakings about the old church site [to be excavated] for a memorial garden and remains and artefacts to be contained at a site within the village
- Better consultation and engagement between HS2 Ltd and communities

We understand that the request for better sound barriers at 4ft high across the Parish has been seen in a favourable light but await the outcome of the remainder of our "asks". A Community Engagement Manger has been appointed for this area and a public contact phone line will be established by the overall contractor.

We are reminded by HS2 Ltd that there are several property schemes for people who live near the HS2 route, are directly affected and may be eligible for compensation. If you think you may be one of those people visit [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) for full information.

### **Old Church Site**

Should the HS2 proposals be agreed by Parliament excavation work on the site of the former St.Mary's Church off Risborough Road will commence in March 2017. We understand that up to a hundred personnel will be working there at any one time for a period of between eighteen months and two years. The undertaking is immense as it is believed that up to ten thousand burials could have taken place within the church yard and fields beyond dating from the eleventh century to the last burial in 1908. HS2 Ltd are keen to talk to local people who may have ancestors buried at the site or who can recall the old church especially when it was blown up in the nineteen sixties. One of the Archaeologists for HS2 Ltd has been researching the history of the site and is anxious to meet up with anybody able and willing to help with information. Please contact Jenny Hunt on 01296 613217 or [hunt935@btinternet.com](mailto:hunt935@btinternet.com) if you are willing to meet with others in a small group to be arranged.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Work continues on producing the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan to help us plan the future development of our Parish. A Working Group of residents and Parish Councillors are drawing together evidence on current facilities to support the Plan leading to community consultation early in the New Year when a questionnaire will be circulated to all addresses in the Parish. We would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire when it arrives through your letter box and make your views known.

### **Weed Spraying**

Bucks County Council announced early in the Spring that it would no longer routinely spray and treat weeds alongside pathways and pavements due to the damage caused by widespread use of herbicides on pollinating insects. Legal constraints have also reduced the effectiveness of the application. Noxious weeds will continue to be treated and removed, primarily Japanese Knotweed, throughout the year. As a Parish Council which has taken on this service from the County Council as a devolved service, weed spraying on pavements in Stoke Mandeville will still take place but this will be done by Aylesbury Town Council as our contractor.

### **Transport for Bucks Winter Service Update**

The 2016/2017 winter service programme commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> October for 26 weeks. However, the forecast weather conditions will dictate how and when this is used. BCC has replenished the salt domes based on getting best value. All BCC salt bins are checked and salt replenished. A number exist on roadsides and vulnerable areas throughout the Parish provided and maintained by the Parish Council. We understand that during the year a number of salt bins within the county have been damaged or stolen. These bins are provided for use by residents to use when there are dangerous conditions on roads and pavements and are not for private use. Should you identify any problems or have queries do contact the Parish Clerk.

Any issues with the roadway can be reported direct to Transport for Bucks via their contact number – 0845 230 2882 or online at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/tell-tfb/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/tell-tfb/)

### **Aylesbury Town Centre Developments**

Plans for development for Waterside North have now been approved. These comprise of four restaurants on the current car park in Exchange Street, flexible commercial space on the ground floor facing Long Lion and forty seven one and two bedroom apartments to be built on four floors above. A new public square is also to be provided.

### **Decisions on Planning Applications**

More recently the local planning authority, AVDC, has made the following decisions between 8<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> October on planning applications submitted for Stoke Mandeville.

- 28 Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville – Car parking to provide to create three car parking spaces in total. – Approved
- Linden House, 28B Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville – Crown lift to Lime Tree Tree Preservation Order in situ – Consent Granted.
- 21 Plough Close, Aylesbury – Certificate for the demolition of existing rear conservatory and a proposed single storey rear extension – Certificate issues.
- 1 Thorpe Close, Aylesbury - Two storey side and single front and rear extensions – Householder Approval granted.

### **Multiple Housing Stoke Mandeville**

Applications and notifications for the development of large housing sites in Stoke Mandeville village continue to be received. In recent months applications have been received for 73 dwellings on land behind Eskdale Road and Station Road up to the railway line. The Parish Council opposed the proposals. In addition an exhibition took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October at The Ark for the proposed development of 80 dwellings on land at Thornbrook House, Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville. The developers are expected to submit a formal application to the local planning authority during November.

### **Street lights**

The Parish Council is responsible for the streetlights in two of the wards in the parish – Stoke Leys and the Village. In order to reduce the carbon footprint, be more environmentally friendly and reduce electricity costs it is upgrading all of its streetlights to LEDs. The work started in 2015/16 with the lights in Dorchester Close, Carters Ride, Walnut Close, Ligo Avenue, Combe Close and Meadow Park being replaced with LEDs. We have also replaced some streetlights which have failed with LEDs rather than using a replacement older style light. The work will take another 6 years to complete as the cost is being spread in order to avoid taking out a loan.

Please report any problems with the Parish Council's street lights to the Clerk – 01296 613888.

Residents in Hawkslade and Stoke Grange should report street light problems to Transport for Bucks – 0845 230 2882.

### **Parsh Council Meeting Dates for 2017**

Meetings of the Parish Council take place on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road. All meetings are open to public and press and include an open session for members of the public to ask questions and make comment. Agendas are displayed on the Council's website [www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk).

### **Meeting dates for 2017 are**

**10<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April [Annual Parish Meeting], 9<sup>th</sup> May [Annual Meeting of of Parish Council], 13<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> August [Provisional], 5<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

***Sending Best Wishes to all our Parishioners for the Christmas Season,  
And Good Health and Happiness for 2017***

*Jenny Hunt  
Chairman  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2016*