

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION 2013

HIGH SPEED RAIL 2

Since the last edition of this magazine, our work with HS2 has increased significantly including a meeting with representatives of HS2 Ltd on 22nd January 2013. The Council remains opposed to the HS2 proposals but should the Government chose to proceed all efforts will be made to mitigate the impacts on the parish. Three quarters of the residents of Stoke Mandeville will be affected by noise (estimated to be at least 85db - equivalent to hearing a jet take off while on the runway – up to every 90 seconds). Those hardest hit will be people living in Hawkslade, Stoke Leys and Village wards, although nobody will be exempt when construction begins in 2017.

The Parish Council and the Stoke Mandeville Action Group against HS2 [SMAG] have therefore been considering how the impact of HS2 might be managed IF HS2 proceeds. Existing plans suggest that Stoke Mandeville will be impacted by three bridges (significant structures with associated construction compounds – for up to three years) at Risborough Road, Marsh Lane and for the Risborough rail line. In addition access routes would be required to move equipment between construction sites, including on Marsh Lane and behind Lower Road.

HS2 Ltd have also advised that maintenance sidings will need to be provided between Nash Lee Road and Risborough Road, measuring 850m (long) by 36m (wide). With or without this proposal the old St. Mary's Church site will be cleared to accommodate the train, requiring the relocation of graves and human remains and the felling of age old horse chestnut and lime trees.

Representations for a tunnel from Stoke Mandeville to Hartwell and beyond have been discounted as too expensive by HS2 Ltd because of topography and flood plain issues. The Parish Council, SMAG, the National Trust and Buckinghamshire County Council have therefore worked together to develop mitigation proposals including:

- National Trust proposals to provide a cut and cover bridge across the cutting through which HS2 will travel and bringing this further towards Aylesbury to Hawkslade;
- Realign the A4010 to make it the signposted route to Aylesbury, linking to the A413 Wendover Road.
- Reroute the Risborough Road west of the current alignment, crossing HS2 near where it crosses the Princes Risborough Chiltern line, linking back into Lower Road.
- Marsh Lane (east) becomes an access-only road, whilst Marsh Lane (west) links into the new road. Access for emergency Blue Light services is maintained without impacting on Stoke Mandeville and traffic is re-routed via strategic routes.

Benefits from this proposed mitigation scheme, should it eventually be agreed, would be the removal of both bridges in Marsh Lane and Risborough Road and allied construction sites.

All of these mitigation proposals are in the early stages and subject to change but the impact of HS2 (should it proceed) cannot be over-emphasized. Stoke Mandeville is possibly the first community where design speeds of 400km/h may be achieved and therefore it is not unreasonable to expect the highest level of both mitigation and benefits.

Further comments about mitigation measures and proposals would be welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2013/2014

Each year the Parish Council has to consider expenditure for the following financial year in order to determine the amount of precept to be collected from Council taxpayers to run the Council. Last year there was no increase in the precept but unfortunately for the 2013/2014 year ahead, the precept has been increased to the equivalent of an additional 17p per week for a Council 'Band D' property. This is because of increased costs and work necessary to bring some of the parish facilities up to standard. Householder contributions to the community tax in Stoke Mandeville still remain one of the lowest in the Aylesbury Vale District. The Parish Council is grateful to Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity for supporting the precept.

POLICING IN THE PARISH

PC Andy Smith from the Wendover Neighbourhood policing team which covers the village, attended the council meeting in November to report on work undertaken. He said that the team's priorities were non-dwelling burglaries and anti-social behaviour. The Team had recently carried out speed enforcement in Risborough Road when data captured by Councillors undertaking community speedwatch had been used. Further such exercises are planned. During the discussion on car parking, PC Smith listened to concerns from residents about on-street car parking and advised that the police will act where vehicles are blocking pathways or parked within 15m of a road junction. PC Michael Cowdrey from Aylesbury South Policing Team, which includes Stoke Grange, Hawkslade and Stoke Leys came along to the meeting in December to talk about issues within those areas. Again, car parking was seen as the biggest problem in particular roads around the hospital. He said that the Police had been ticketing cars which had been parked illegally and were obstructing roads or pavements. Speedwatch exercises have been undertaken in Anton Way but no issues had been noted and most cars were travelling less than 30mph despite the perception of speed. Reports have indicated that anti social behavior around the shopping area has improved.

CAR PARKING

Car parking is of particular concern in Stoke Leys, around the hospital and has caused problems for residents. Discussions with the Buckinghamshire Health Trust about the provision of additional car

parking on the hospital site are continuing at a slow pace and in the meantime residents are becoming increasingly frustrated not only by the inconvenience but being unable to access their homes.

Commuter car parking in the village especially in Hampden Road, Orchard Close and Arnold Close has also been reported and the Council is meeting with Chiltern Rail and the Highways Authority to resolve the problems. Yellow lines are not always the answer as we have found as these encourage migrant parking elsewhere and can result in residents and/or their visitors being ticketed for parking outside their own homes. The Parish Council is providing posters to be displayed that will remind drivers not to obstruct access, not to park on a bend in the road, not to park opposite another vehicle, not to park at a road junction and to show respect for residents and their property. For copies please contact the Parish Clerk.

IN BRIEF

- A new notice board is to be sited at the school as a joint venture between the School and the Parish Council.
- The Oak tree presented to the Parish Council by AVDC to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee has been planted on the playing field by Cllr Carole Paternoster.
- Two new litter bins are to be provided at the far end of Risborough Road because of the amount of rubbish deposited in that area.
- The Council has arranged for AVDC to provide a holiday activities programme for the Easter and Summer Holidays.
- The Council opposed proposals for the development of up to 24 dwellings off Isis Close and Oat Close. The application is awaiting formal determination but is recommended for approval.
- The Council has noted work required to be undertaken on the burial ground and also at the entrance to the allotments entrance in Lower Road.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications have been determined by the local planning authority.

Permitted Development

- Internal and external alterations to redundant barns and farm yard to form 2 dwellings and car port including of demolition of modern farm buildings. Moat Farm, Marsh Lane, Stoke Mandeville.
- Change of Use of Ceramic Studio/Office to residential annexe, 2A Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville.

- Change of Use of former car dealership premises to specialist early learning centre, including alterations and extension to existing buildings, PACE, 156 Wendover Road. Weston Turville
- Erection of Replacement Nursery Building and Yard Extension to Car Park, Chiltern Nurseries, Wendover Road, Stoke Mandeville.

DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS 2013

All Meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees are open to members of the public and take place at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road, at 7.30pm on the following dates. Dates of meetings of the Environment, Finance and Governance, Leisure and Planning Committees can be found on Parish notice boards or on the Parish Council website at www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk

January 8th

February 12th

March 12th

April 9th Annual Parish Meeting

May 14th (Annual Meeting)

June 11th

July 9th

August 13th (provisional)

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th

Jenny Hunt

Stoke Mandeville Parish Council Chairman

1st February 2013