

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH MAGAZINE - WINTER EDITION 2012

HIGH SPEED RAIL

During October Parish Councillors, together with members of SMAG and others, met with HS2 Ltd to discuss measures which could be taken to mitigate the affect on Stoke Mandeville should plans for the high speed rail HS2 go ahead. We conveyed to HS2 Ltd our dismay at the intention to build a large bridge of some 8m high plus metal gantries, across the track where it crosses Risborough Road and a similar bridge to be constructed in Marsh Lane. Both of these large structures would have a devastating effect on the area. In addition huge construction sites are planned nearby to accommodate large machinery, materials and workers for a considerable period of time. The possibility of providing a 'green tunnel' behind Isis and Oats Close at Hawkslade where the train will run very close to housing was also discussed. No answers were forthcoming from HS2 Ltd but they did agree to take our concerns away for further discussion.

In the meantime the Parish Council has been looking at mitigation for those areas. It considers that to close off Risborough Road where HS2 crosses the track and re routing the A.4010 from Terrick Roundabout to the Wendover Road [A.413] would remove the need for a bridge and a construction site. To do this would not only lessen the effects of dust, noise, pollution, the need for a huge infrastructure facing people who live in Old Risborough and Risborough Roads as well as the visual impact blighting the village but would also serve the dual purpose of reducing heavy through traffic. However, the downside is that it is a "blue light route" and could increase smaller local traffic through Station Road. But we are talking about 10 - 15 years time. Likewise, the Parish Council considers that to cut off Marsh Lane where HS2 crosses that road would give protection to those living in there, the school and the church, especially as there are other alternative routes to Bishopstone and Kimble which could be used. Before taking these proposals further, the Parish Council is keen to know the views of residents. Depending on the outcome of this work, a formal submission for the removal of these two bridges will be put before Parliament as part of the Hybrid Bill to be debated next year. Additionally, the Parish Council are to canvas residents of Hawkslade to be affected by the route about mitigation measures such as screening and tunnelling.

The Government's consultation paper on Property Compensation has just been issued and closes at the end of January. The criteria for being able to claim voluntary property compensation has been called derisory and it is important that as many people as possible give their views. SMAG and the Parish Council are planning to have an information event in Aylesbury town centre to inform and advise people for which there will be wide publicity.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLAYING FIELD

The excellence of the Stoke Mandeville Playing Field and the hard work of all those involved, has been recognised by the National Playing Fields Association by awarding the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field status to commemorate the

Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A plaque was presented to the Chairman of the Council on 26th September which will be displayed in the Community Centre.

The status of being a QE II Playing Field will protect the field for ninety nine years. It cannot be sold or compulsorily purchased for any other use and will continue to be used for leisure and recreation by future generations. The Council is minded to rename the Playing Field to "The Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field" and would be pleased to receive comments from residents to this suggestion. The Woodlands Trust and Fields in Trust has offered an oak sapling which will be planted on the field.

Thanks to all those who responded to our request for improvements to the playing field. As a result additional seating will be provided and more litter bins. We arranged during the summer months for litter pick-ups to be increased to twice a week and this will be repeated during autumn half term.

SPEEDWATCH

During the past few weeks Councillors have been out with speedwatch equipment during September. In Lower Road the average speed of sixty motorists was recorded with an average speed [surprisingly] of 38mph. The fastest speed recorded was 48mph. A similar exercise is to take place along Station Road.

The Police have done speed checks in Risborough Road and Transport for Bucks is to provide white hatching along that section of road where it narrows as a result of a successful bid for funds by the Parish Council.

ASDA FOODSTORE

The ASDA Foodstore has finally been granted planning permission and will be built on land across the front of Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The Parish Council has, with local residents, opposed the proposals for the past two years but sadly to no avail. Included in the application is a new zebra crossing and roundabout between Kynaston and Winterton Drive. This can only lead to longer queues of traffic into Aylesbury at peak times with more parking by staff, hospital visitors and shoppers on residential side roads.

The Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust is aware of the concerns of local authorities and residents and it is hoped that conditions attached to the planning permission will mean that the problem of on street parking around the hospital will be resolved. It is important that this is done before the foodstore is built.

DOG FOULING

The Council has lately received complaints about dog fouling on pavements and on the playing field. Although this has not been a serious problem for some time, we have to remind dog owners of the possible dangers to children from

dog faeces and ask them to always use the dog bins provided by the Parish Council.

FLY TIPPING

As a result of a resident reporting repeated fly tipping in Werner Close arrangements have been made for the items to be removed and the placing of a sign to deter tippers who can be fined for their actions.

COMMUNITY POLICE SUPPORT OFFICERS

Megan Harriet and Paul Evans from Wendover Community Police Unit attended the meeting of the Parish Council on 9th October. They reported that there had been 31 crimes of note in the area during the past six months which included Stoke Mandeville. They hope to return to the meeting on 13th November to give a presentation on Community Policing in the Village Ward which is in the Wendover Police area. Arrangements are to be made the CPSOs for Aylesbury town wards Stoke Leys, Hawkslade and Stoke Grange to attend future meetings.

'MEN IN SHEDS'

A new 'Men in Sheds Group' is starting in Aylesbury. 'Men in Sheds' provides a place where men can go along and take part in activities, similar to what you would do in your own garden shed but with other like minded men supplying good company. A typical 'Shed' might provide woodwork or metalworking tools and equipment to enable 'shedders' to use their existing skills or learn more new ones. Members decide what activities they would like to do and it is open to all men of all ages. To find out more ring 01296 421036 or 07990 756742 or e mail Samantha@communityimpactbucks.org.uk.

PERSONAL SAFETY - THAMES VALLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Purse/handbag bells to warn the owner that their handbag or wallet might take a walk, or a purse/bag cable which can be connected to a person or bag as well as purse/bag alarms are now available. If you would like to have one to prevent your bag or purse being taken when you are out, please e mail valthewillows@aol.com

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL A – Z GUIDE TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

This was distributed in September and lists essential services that range from parking and pest control to bin collections and benefits. QR codes link to YouTube videos, case studies and web pages. The guide was sent to you in a printed format and according to current statistics one in eight people in

Buckinghamshire do not have direct access to the internet. Please call 0845 370 8090 to receive a copy.

IN BRIEF

- The Council has been asked by AVDC to suggest a name for the new development adjoining Rowan Close, Hawkslade and has chosen 'Wiseman Close' in memory of Hawkslade Parish Councillor, John Wiseman.
- Planning Permission has been granted for a single storey rear extension at Bushey Cottage, 1 Station Road subject to conditions.
- New drainage has been provided to the playing field at a cost of £611 plus VAT.
- Anti Social Behaviour on the Playing Field has resulted in Police involvement.
- The Presentations to the winners of the Parish Council's Olympic Art Challenge were made at the Osbidian Gallery.
- The Parish Council is in discussion with the Stoke Mandeville Village Community Association about providing an additional function room at the Centre.
- A letter has been sent to the Royal Mail urging that the post box outside the Post Office be replaced and for this be re-sited to the top of Eskdale Road because of the danger of parked and moving cars outside the Post Office.
- The post box at the end of Kynaston Avenue which had been painted gold in recognition of the Paralympic Games became chipped and unsightly after a very short time. This has been taken up with Royal Mail.
- This is the time of year to notice any street lights not working. Please take the number painted on the light column and telephone the Clerk on 613888
- A donation has been made to the Dial-A-Ride in recognition of the services this charity makes towards the local community and also a grant has been made to St. Mary's Church towards the maintenance of the burial ground.

Minutes of all meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees can be found on the Parish Council website at www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk.

Jenny Hunt
Chairman, Stoke Mandeville Parish Council
27th October 2012