

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

WINTER EDITION 2013

STREET LIGHTS

With the onset of winter problems may be experienced with street lights. If your street light is not working and you live in the Village or Stoke Leys please contact the Clerk of the Parish Council on 01296 613888, giving the name of the road and street light number to be found on the column. Street lights on roundabouts, Hawkslade, Stoke Grange and the main Wendover Road are looked after by Transport for Bucks which is 0845 230 2882. The Parish Council is investigating the possibility of LED lighting in order to save on revenue costs.

ELECTORAL REVIEW VILLAGE WARD

Thank you to all those who contacted us protesting at the proposal from Aylesbury Vale District Council that the village ward of 1643 electors be split between the Aston Clinton and Wendover Wards at District Council level. As a result of our campaign to retain a single entity for the village to remain as one electoral ward, AVDC agreed not to pursue this proposal with the Local Government Boundaries Commission. We now await the outcome of that Review and the result of our own counter proposal that a Greater Stoke Mandeville District Ward be established to cover the parish wards of Hawkslade, Stoke Leys, Stoke Grange and the Village.

ROADSIDE CAR PARKING

Stoke Leys

Problems continue with on-street car parking on roads around Stoke Mandeville Hospital and also those near the Station. A recent visit to Stoke Leys with Officers and Members of the District and County Councils has resulted in options being put forward from them, which include yellow lines and parking meters or a combination of both. Bucks County Council is to hold a meeting for local people whereby residents can vote on the various options. In the meantime plans are going ahead to convert the field next to the ambulance station to a staff car park of 553 spaces for a temporary period of two years in order to alleviate some of the problems until a permanent solution is found. Funding for both these schemes comes from the ASDA development.

Station

In order to seek some action on commuter car parking in Eskdale and Hampden Roads a meeting has been arranged between Chiltern Rail, the Parish Councillors for the village and resident representatives and will take place during November.

SPEED WATCH

Parish Councillors were out during December with speed monitoring equipment along the Wendover Road. Details of speeding motorists have been passed to Wendover Police Station who will be writing to those drivers. A further Speedwatch session is planned for Station Road.

HIGH SPEED RAIL [HS2]

Realignment of Risborough Road

The Parish Council has been advised that the realignment for the A.4010 Risborough Road will be included in the Hybrid Bill which will go before Parliament. Should this go through it would avoid having two large bridge constructions - one across Risborough Road [18 metres high] and the other across Marsh Lane just behind the school playing field. However the other section of the realignment to bypass Nash Lee Road has not been agreed by HS2 Ltd who do not see providing this as part of their remit. Considerable work has been undertaken by the Parish Council and the Stoke Mandeville Action Group in liaison with Bucks County Council and the National Trust in order to bring this mitigation proposal forward which will be funded by Government.

Hawkslade

During October the local press featured an article about the lack of activity from Aylesbury Town in protesting about HS2. In this it mentioned Hawkslade which is not in Aylesbury but is part of Stoke Mandeville. Residents who live on Hawkslade have been involved since the announcement of HS2 in opposing these proposals by working with SMAG and the Parish Council. They know only too well the adverse effects HS2 will have on their lives and those of people living in Walton Court. We have for the past two years urged HS2 Ltd to provide a tunnel across the back of Hawkslade and Walton Court to avoid noise and pollution from HS2. We have undertaken an independent baseline survey of current noise in order to use as a comparator. However, the Dept of Transport states that a tunnel in this area is unacceptable due to flood plains and the additional cost. Therefore, a combination of earthworks and noise barriers of 5m high are proposed. We are working with the National Trust on the planting of woodland and landscaping in the area to act as a screen between the housing and the train. Construction of HS2 should start in 3 to 4 years time and will take up to ten years.

Old Church Site

Mike Farley from the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society spoke to the Parish Council at the October meeting about the old church site. The Stoke Mandeville Parish Register held by the County Archivist show that there were 853 burials around the old church for the period 1699 – 1840 and there could possibly be up to 1800 remains, all of which will have to be excavated under supervision of the Home Office. We are requesting that HS2 provide a vault to house these remains in a landscaped area in the village. Visit the Old Church Site of St Marys by Stoke House during the spring and see the snowdrops, daffodils and other wild flower planting.

Chiltern Tunnel

Discussions have taken place with organisations representing Wendover and others supporting the Chilterns Tunnel in their wish to bring the portal further towards Stoke Mandeville. We fear that this will have a massive impact on Stoke Mandeville as the train travelling at 325–400 km ph exits the tunnel. We are therefore objecting to this proposal.

BROADBAND IN STOKE MANDEVILLE

We have all suffered slow broadband for many years which is frustrating at the best of times. However, there is finally light at the end of the tunnel because Buckinghamshire County Council in partnership with Hertfordshire is extending the fibre coverage in this area as part of the connected counties programme starting in 2014.

See <http://www.connectedcounties.org/homepage/news> for further details. In some parts of the parish fibre broadband already exists through existing infrastructures..

HAWKSLADE LEISURE

The Parish Council is to receive £112,000 in section106 monies which is granted by the developers of Wiseman Close for leisure facilities in the area. We would like to receive from residents suggestions how this money should be spent. It has to be on leisure facilities within the area of Hawkslade. Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not own land at Hawkslade and any provision would need to be on land which already exists in the area. If you wish to submit ideas please email or contact the Parish Clerk via our website. The money will be held by AVDC until it is required.

PLANNING

Decisions on Planning Applications made by AVDC the local planning authority are as follows :

Permitted Development

- Renewal of permission for the erection of one new dwelling at Longacre, Risborough Road.
- Erection of Agricultural Storage Building, Moat Farm, Marsh Lane.
- Single Storey Detached Outbuilding. 67 Lower Road. The building can only be used as an outbuilding for purposes ancillary to the house on the site.
- Single storey and first floor rear extension 17 Patrick Way, Aylesbury
- Single storey and first floor rear extensions 115 Wendover Road.

Refused

- Single Storey Side Extension to No.1 and new Garage to No.3 Mentmore Green, Stoke Leys

THAMES VALLEY POLICE/ AVDC PARTNERSHIP

As darker nights draw in we are reminded that it is important to think about simple steps to prevent your home becoming the next target by opportunist criminals:

- Use timer switches to give the impression that your home is occupied especially if you arrive home from work after dark
- Register your valuables on www.immobilise.com
- Ensure that such items as ipads or iphones, laptops, play stations and jewellery are kept away from view
- Do not leave keys near or visible from the entrance door.
- Invest in additional locks for windows, back doors, sheds and garages. Remember to double lock and turn the key in the door whilst in the house
- Install a burglar alarm if possible.

Catalytic Converters

The theft of catalytic converters [located in a vehicle's exhaust] has been a problem in Aylesbury Vale this year and they can cost up to £1200 to replace. For information on how to prevent catalytic converter theft please visit:

www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/community-living/community-safety/.

DATES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2014

Meetings of the Parish Council are open to public and take place on the second Tuesday of each month in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. At the beginning of the meeting there is a session to enable residents to raise issues with Councillors should they wish to do so.

Dates for meeting during next year are

14th January. 13th February. 11th March. 8th April [Annual Parish Meeting].
6th May AGM. 10th June. 8th July. 12th August [provisional]. 9th September.
14th October. 11th November. 9th December.

*A Happy Christmas to all our Residents
and Very Best Wishes for 2014*

*Jenny Hunt
Chairman
SMPC*