



# Parish Council Update

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Stoke Mandeville Parish Council, Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville  
HP22 5UJ. Tel: 01296 613888 Email: [smparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:smparishcouncil@btconnect.com)

**Welcome to the first edition of the *Parish Council Update*** which we hope to bring you on a monthly basis, keeping you up to date with the latest news from Stoke Mandeville Parish Council. We also want to hear from you. If you are aware of friends or neighbours who live in our parish and would like to receive the Update please ask them to forward their email details to [smparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:smparishcouncil@btconnect.com). The Parish Council will not share email details with any third party.



## NEW - Leisure Equipment at the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, Eskdale Road

The Council is delighted to report that new facilities have been installed at the Playing Field in Eskdale Road. Nine pieces of outdoor gym equipment are now in place and accessibility has been improved by provision of a bound gravel path to the gym equipment, tennis courts, table tennis table, basketball post and skate park. A new, fully accessible, entrance is also now in place at tennis courts to improve access.

This project has been funded by grant monies and the Parish Council is grateful to Suez Communities Trust, Aylesbury Vale Community Chest and Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity.



### Would you like to help your local community?

There are currently two vacancies for Parish Councillors for Hawkslade and Stoke Mandeville Village wards. To be eligible you must be over 18 and qualify under one of the provisions of Section 79 of the Local

Government Act 1972 below:

- 1) Be on the Electoral Register for the Parish, or
- 2) Have owned or rented land in the Parish for 12 months, or
- 3) Have worked in the Parish for 12 months, or
- 4) Have lived in the Parish or within 3 miles thereof during the whole of the 12 months preceding appointment.

If you are interested please contact the Clerk or Chairman for further information. If you wish to apply please write to the Council (details above) confirming you meet the requirements above and stating why you wish to be a councillor by 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### Fireworks Display

The Stoke Mandeville Fireworks Display was held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Once again it was a huge success with over 2,500 people attending.



Thanks to the committee members of SMVCA and all the volunteers who gave their time to help ensure the event runs smoothly.

### Neighbourhood Plan

Work continues to develop a neighbourhood plan for Stoke Mandeville. Initial consultation events have taken place and members of the steering group are compiling evidence to support the Plan. The next important stage of community consultation will take place early in the New Year when a questionnaire will be circulated to all addresses in the parish. We would like to encourage as many as possible to complete this to ensure that your views are captured.

**Please look out for this and have your say!**

## HS2

The Council and SMAG continue in their aim to get the best mitigation for Stoke Mandeville. Parish Councillors with representatives from SMAG appeared before the House of Lords Select Committee on 25th October to improvements, especially around Hawkslade. The response from the Select Committee and a more detailed report will be included in a future edition. The proposals for HS2 continue to progress and after Royal Assent at the end of this year, work will start in earnest in 2017. Contractors will be appointed quickly and some are already in place, responsibilities will pass to those organisations and companies and the HS2 Ltd workforce will reduce. A new Community Engagement Officer has been appointed as a link for this area and contact details will follow.

New Property Compensation schemes have recently been introduced. If you live near to the route and wish to find out if this applies to you contact [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2).

## Old Church Site

Should the scheme for HS2 be finally approved, work will immediately start on the excavation of the old church site. This is by far the largest project of its kind along the route. Discussions have been taking place with HS2 Archaeologists who advise that up to a hundred people will be working at any one time on the site for a period of up to two years. The work to be undertaken is immense. It is estimated that there are some 10,000 burials in the former church yard and surrounding fields going back to the twelfth century with the last in 1908. We are keen to hear from families with relatives buried at the old church or from people who can offer information especially photographs about its history. Please contact Jenny Hunt on [hunt935@btinternet.com](mailto:hunt935@btinternet.com)

## Planning News

Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) are currently considering the following applications in Stoke Mandeville – to make your views known, go to [www.aylesburyvalecdc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvalecdc.gov.uk)

- 16/02673/APP – Land behind Eskdale Rd - for 73 dwellings
- 16/03329/APP – 18 Kingsland Rd – two storey side/front extension
- 16/03439/APP – 61 Lower Rd – two storey rear extension
- 16/03497/APP – 4 Evans Close – replace hedging on boundary with close board fencing (retrospective)

**Lower Road** - Applications for two developments on Lower Road have been recommended for approval by AVDC subject to the completion of legal agreements.

**Risborough Road** - An exhibition on a proposed application for land at Thornbrooke House, Risborough Road was held at the Ark on 20<sup>th</sup> October. The developers are expected to submit the formal application to AVDC soon.

## Looking ahead.....

The Parish Council is beginning to prepare its budget for 2017/18 and have identified a number of projects that are needed to keep our existing facilities maintained.

Two projects are (1) the re-surface of the aerial runway, the existing surface has been subject to several patch repairs over the last couple of year but is now in need of replacement to ensure it remains safe for use; and (2) the refurbishment of the tennis court surface as this is now cracking in places and very faded. These projects are very costly and the Council will be seeking grant funding to reduce the burden to taxpayers and keep any increase to the precept to a minimum.

## Your Parish Councillors:

**Hawkslade** – Cllr David Starr, Cllr Pat Wood

**Stoke Leys** – Cllr Stephen Pluckwell, Cllr Marcus Rogers

**Stoke Grange** – Cllr Andrew Clark, Cllr Santosh Kirve

**Stoke Mandeville Village** – Cllr Steve Atkinson, Cllr Richard Butler, Cllr Barbara Ezra, Cllr Jenny Hunt

**Chairman** – Cllr Jenny Hunt

**Vice Chairman** – Cllr David Starr

Contact details for councillors are on our website – [www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk) and noticeboards around the parish.

# HS2 –

## What has Stoke Mandeville Parish Council and Stoke Mandeville Action Group ever done for us ...?

As a result of our activities over the last *six and a half years* we have secured the following benefits for residents of Stoke Mandeville:

- Our proposal to divert the A4010, secured the ***removal of two major road bridges over Risborough Road and Marsh Lane, along with the associated major construction site.*** Not only would the bridges have been about 50 feet high and but traffic noise would also have spread much further across the parish than noise from the existing roads.
- We petitioned both Houses of Parliament ***for noise barriers across the parish with a minimum height of 4 metres.*** We have recently received an assurance from HS2 Limited to this effect. As well as protecting residents, this will also reduce noise impacts at the Combined School in the village which includes a hearing impaired department.
- ***At Hawkslade***, where the line is closest to residential properties without any form of compensation, ***we have petitioned for the line to be lowered into an extended cutting to improve both noise and visual mitigation.*** We have already been offered extra screening with bunding and tree planting. We await the results of our petition to the House of Lords.
- As a result of both petitioning and negotiation, HS2 Limited has offered ***better sound and visual mitigation by screening the proposed Maintenance Loops in the south of the parish and the crossing of Risborough Road,*** in addition to the already proposed noise barriers.
- Thanks to petitioning and negotiation, ***we expect to receive an undertaking about the treatment and reinternment of human remains found during the excavation of the Old Church site.*** We are also waiting for HS2 Limited to identify a site in the Parish for a memorial garden for those remains.
- ***We have petitioned both Houses of Parliament for enhanced compensation and mitigation for businesses*** in the Parish. We await the results of our petition to the House of Lords.

These achievements have only been possible because of the time given by members of the action group and the support of the community for which we are grateful. We are also very appreciative of the Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity for its unfailing support.