



**STANBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
November 2017**

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter. It's time to look back over the last 6 months and what's been happening in the village and on the Parish Council. First of all though, my thanks go to all the volunteers that help get this letter distributed so quickly and to our local printers A1 Copying for printing and collating it. We hope that you find this format helpful and handy for useful info and contact details.

Since the last newsletter, 2 new Councillors, Martin Walker and Micky Waters have joined the Parish Council and we offer them a very warm welcome. As with all Councillors we very much appreciate their time and efforts in working on behalf of the Community. We are also happy to welcome our new vicar, Kaushal David and his family to the village (he says Kaushal rhymes with Thou Shall).

I'm pleased to announce we now have a Community Speedwatch scheme up and running. Thank you to all of the volunteers that make this possible and to Martin Walker who is the co-ordinator of the group. His update is further on in this newsletter.

The play area was fenced, as planned, in May and we have had many positive comments on how it looks. There are a few minor issues with the gate, but these are now being sorted.

The planter has also looked good again this year with the geraniums surviving a second winter in my greenhouse before getting planted out for a 3rd time. Thanks to Gill, Di, Micky, Steve and

Richard for helping me with the watering, planting and maintenance.

Some of the eagle eyed may have noticed the new HGV weight restriction signs put in place as you approach the village from Hockcliffe traffic lights, Eggington, the A505 and A5. We've requested these for some time but now they are installed, we hope this will help reduce the number of HGVs through the village.

The Parish Council also purchased 3 x 30mph Speedwatch signs. Two were placed along Tilsworth Road and one near the top of Peddars Lane. Unfortunately, as these can only go on Council owned lamp posts and not on the telegraph poles, we are restricted in the number we can use.

The motocross site put in an application for a change to operating hours. This was only a temporary change and although we objected and spoke against this at the District Management Committee meeting, Central Beds Council still voted to pass this through. They now have an application in for the increased bunding as part of a noise management plan. We are working with the Council on this to ensure the correct levels of noise reduction are obtained. We were also contacted about some car time trials happening in one of the fields in the village. Working with the operators we have been able to get notices to all residents affected regarding the days of races (4) and also made them aware of the restrictions of using such a field without planning permission.

The Police have continued with rural operations in this area and the Op Sentinel team have had much success to date:

Vehicle Seizures	64
Traffic Offence Reports	138
Intelligence Submissions	171
Stop Search	7
Arrests	12
No Waste Carriers Licence	6
Street Caution for Cannabis	5
Verbal Warnings	37
Speeding Offences	39
Speed Checks Carried Out	In excess of 3000

I've also had meetings with senior police officers including the Chief Constable to discuss issues

faced by villagers. If you would like something raised in the future then please let us know.

Next year there will be an event called 'Battle's Over' to mark the end of WWI at the Community Hall. As Stanbridge is a Thankful Village, which means all those that fought in WWI came home, we thought it might be nice to commemorate 100 years on somehow and would like your views and ideas.

Elaine Sutton - Chairman

KEEPING HEDGES CUT AND DITCHES CLEAR

Our thanks to all those that cut back hedges and cleared the ditches, what a difference it makes. We would ask everyone to ensure that any hedges or trees that overhang the pavement are cut back so as not to cause obstruction, especially for the elderly, disabled or those with visual impairments. With all the wet weather we have seen more flooding in the village this year and would remind you about keeping the ditches cleared of rubbish and debris. **DID you know you could be liable to prosecution if an accident was directly caused by a ditch that overflowed?**

Blocked drains near your property that overflow in wet weather can be reported on the CBC website.

SPEEDING

Since the last Parish newsletter there has been significant progress on the Speedwatch front. The parish now has nine trained Speedwatch people and one volunteer hoping to be trained soon. This has enabled a number of Speedwatch sessions to be held at various locations around the village. All locations have been risk assessed and approved by the police as suitable for the monitoring and recording of vehicles who exceed the signed speed limits in the village. One location is now located within Tilsworth Parish and we are actively helping with Speedwatch sessions that affect traffic through both villages.

As a result of the sessions, Stanbridge has been allocated permanent equipment to undertake future sessions. And the results so far?

A total of 305 incidents of excess speed have been reported, which represents around 20% of all passing traffic. The worst offenders were passing the monitor at speeds in excess of 45 mph. All reported vehicles result in a letter to the owner from the police and drivers who pass significantly over the limit or people detected three times at excess speeds receive a police visit. The evidence

of speeding in the village has resulted in several police speed detection sessions and a number of drivers being prosecuted. Speedwatch members have seen a marked reduction in the speed of passing traffic when the Speedwatch sessions are active. Sessions will continue to be undertaken to enforce the education of the maximum speed on our roads. Lastly, county highway engineers are planning a visit this autumn to assess routes for speed restriction measures.

If you are interested in getting more information or suggesting monitoring sites, contact Martin Walker, Speedwatch co-ordinator (contact details below).

POLICE ADVICE

As the nights draw in, late afternoon is a popular time for thieves to break in before you get home from work. The police advise putting a couple of lights on a timer to give the impression someone is at home.

Also, when you are at home, keep your car keys away from the front door. Burglars love breaking in through a front door, or reaching through a letter box with a device and quickly grabbing car keys, then making off with probably our most expensive possession - the car. However, for fire safety always keep a separate front door key handy for a quick exit.

SAFEGUARDING OUR VILLAGE GREEN

We are still looking into the costs of protecting the Village Green with some form of barrier on the outer perimeter with walk on access to the green. This may be in the form of a bund and ditch, planting or bollards. If you would like to comment, please send your ideas to the clerk. Contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

CENTRAL BEDS LOCAL PLAN

Central Beds have just consulted on this and will again early next year. We plan to have an open meeting regarding this and hope that it will help in forming your decisions about the plan and proposals. CBC need to build many new homes but the placement of these could result in further loss of Green Belt. They also need to provide more sites for the Travelling Community and transient sites for those that do travel. New houses proposed around Leighton Buzzard will mostly be on Green Belt.

VILLAGE FOCUS GROUP

The Villages Focus Group continues to work diligently on fair planning for all on behalf of our local community with the support of this Parish Council. The numbers of representatives from other rural parishes continues to grow and now includes a Town Council. Over the past year, the focus group have continued to form a strong alliance with Bedfordshire Police who have been able to commit new rural police resources in our area. They have also been working with the Council to secure a way to tackle the issues in Billington and surrounding areas. Our MP, Andrew Selous, has also been speaking in the House of Commons in the debate about Gypsies and Travellers.

DOG WASTE

Dog waste is harmful to humans, particularly children, but it is also harmful to livestock, especially sheep. Please be mindful of this. Even after wet weather the bacteria stays in the ground for a long time and can be ingested by children, which can cause blindness; and for animals can be fatal. All dog waste is to be placed in the bins provided around the village whilst out walking your dogs. Please do not leave bags of dog waste to collect later, as often this is forgotten. ALL dog waste at home must be placed in the GENERAL waste bin, NOT the garden recycle bin – see Council website. PLEASE DO NOT place in the bins around the village as they are not emptied often enough.

STANBRIDGE LOWER SCHOOL

Micky Waters met with Head Teacher Rosemary Godwin to discuss links with the School. The school already enjoys links with the Church, the Five Bells PH and Orchard Lodge Care Home. We discussed further ways in which the school and the Community can work together in the future. The school has a brand-new notice board (headed Stanbridge Lower School and Village News) and Rosemary says everyone is very welcome to put items up themselves using 'blu tack'. They currently have several volunteer positions available within the school: Pre-School Helper, School Readers and also people to help with Community Gardening at the school. Please contact the school if you think you can help with any of these worthwhile opportunities. The school hopes to restart their Parent and Toddler Group sometime in the future. If you would like to see what has been happening at the School and what things they have got coming up, you can visit their website home page at www.stanbridge.beds.sch.uk,

and select the news and events link for their calendar. Micky and Rosemary look forward to working together more in the future.

WEBSITE

The Stanbridge Parish Council Website <http://stanbridge.bedsparishes.gov.uk/> is maintained by Gill Chamberlain. This is the place to go for regular local updates, including Bedfordshire Police Alerts, key local planning applications, and Central Bedfordshire Council news. The Stanbridge Parish Council Meeting dates, Agendas and Minutes are available here, and the Events Calendar includes local social events, such as the next Games night and Christmas Fair to be held in the Village Hall. There are also useful links to local sites, and even a photo album of the last Village Tidy Up!

This year, the highest number of visitors to the website was in July with 982 visitors, with 1836 visits. All are welcome to take a look, or register if you want to start a discussion.

BROADBAND

As many of you will be aware the second of our two green cabinets has now been upgraded to support Superfast Broadband. Prior to the upgrade, Pete Lidford attended a Networking event where local businesses and Parish Councils were given the opportunity to discuss the Superfast rollout with a representative from BT. In theory, now that both cabinets have been upgraded, the whole of the Parish is now covered by Superfast. However, there are some capacity issues on at least one of the cabinets so if anyone doesn't have access but would like it, please feel free to contact Pete Lidford (contact details below) and he will contact the BT representative to see if anything can be done.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Despite the best efforts of storm Doris and the dry Spring leaving it a little worse for wear, the Stanbridge Christmas tree continues to survive thanks to the help of Di, Micky, Maureen, Tony and Gill making sure it stays well-watered. Many thanks to those that helped meaning the tree is ready for the Christmas celebrations. Stanbridge Parish Council invite you all to join us on the **9th December at 5:30pm** for the annual switching on of the Christmas tree lights. The choir will be there to lead the carol singing; the Five Bells, who kindly provide the electricity for the lights, will also be providing refreshments.

ABF CYCLE SPORTIVE

The annual ABF Cycle Sportive was held on the 3rd September and was a great success with over 400 riders on the day, ranging in age from 10 to 89! All of the riders' registration fees go to this amazing charity. This year the event raised £10,650, contributing towards over £60,000 that the event has raised over the last few years. The charity supports soldiers presently serving and past servers and their families. The event organiser, Jacqui Sage-Passant would like to thank everyone who attended the event, Leighton United Football Club for hosting the day and for all the local volunteers who helped plan and co-ordinate

another successful and fun cycle ride. The planning is now already underway for next year's event which is planned to be on the 2nd September 2018.

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

Nominations were received, and we are happy to announce our Villager of the Year 2017 is PAUL WEIR. Paul does so much for the community, particularly at the Community Hall but he was also a volunteer for the working party outings and did so much as part of that team. We would like to thank him again for all his hard work.

Community Hall Bookings The community hall has been newly decorated and is the perfect venue for parties, weddings, club celebrations or meetings. Residents of Stanbridge receive a discount on hall bookings. There are also regular classes and groups, for details visit www.sandtca.co.uk. For more information or to make a booking please contact Paul & Di Weir on 07988 827601.

Meeting Point Magazine. This is a very useful magazine, especially if you are new to the village. It has local news, trades people and information about events and who to contact, plus recipes and quizzes. Annual Subscription is £5.00 for 10 issues. Published on the 1st day of the month except for January and August. For your copy please contact Bobby Francis, magazine co-ordinator at bobbyfrancis@hotmail.com or 01525 222351.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month, Community Hall meeting room at 7.30pm. Members of the public are always welcome and are provided with a session at the start of each meeting to raise any issues they may wish the Council to consider. Copies of the agenda can be found on our website, the parish notice board (between the church and old post office) or obtained from the Clerk. If you wish to receive a copy of the agenda electronically prior to each meeting, please contact the Clerk to be added to the mailing list. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 17th April at 7.30pm** in the Stanbridge and Tilsworth Community Hall where we hope to welcome an even bigger number of residents (if only for the free drinks and nibbles)!

Other Useful Contacts:

Ward Councillor Mark Versallion - Cllr. Mark Versallion is our elected Central Bedfordshire Councillor. Besides speaking on our behalf at planning committee and other meetings, he continues to work on issues brought to him at his regular ward surgeries or when contacted through his office. Mark can be contacted on 01525 234000 or at mark.versallion@centralbeds.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC): www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk you can report through the online system problems such as potholes, street lights not working, grass verge cutting, drainage and flooding, planning issues and much more.

CBC Customer Services: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel 0300 300 8301 to report full rubbish bins around the village, fly tipping, information about Tidy Tips and other general enquiries.

Police: www.bedfordshirepolice.uk - you can sign up for BEDS ALERT to get messages directly from the police although we keep the most topical and relevant alerts on our website. Also sign up to Street Watch, Speed Watch and Neighbourhood watch.

Police Contact details: No offenders present: call 101 (Note: a new appointment system is being deployed)

Offenders are present: call 999

For Intelligence and evidence, you can email OpSentinelCentral@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

These add to rural statistics that will help our community compete for police budget and ongoing active police support.

Motorbikes have Special Operations called 'Operations Meteor': Call 101 or email

opmeteorinbox@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk with pictures and/or footage. Crimestoppers can be called anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Beds Police Rural and Farming Liaison Officer: Can be reached on rural.liaison@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk



Stanbridge Parish Events Diary

Saturday 18th November – Games Night

At the Community Hall 19:00 for 19:30. Bring your own drinks. Tickets are £12 which includes a hot supper. Contact 210834 / 211797 or events@sandtca.co.uk.

Saturday 25th November – St John the Baptist Church Christmas Craft Fayre

At the Community Hall 10:00 to 15:00. Bookings are now being taken for the hire of tables at this event to sell your homemade craft item. Contact Jean Waldock on 210782 for further information or see the Meeting Point Magazine.

Saturday 9th December – Christmas Light Switch On

Come and join us outside the Five Bells for our annual Christmas Light switch on from 17:30.

Sunday 17th December – Christmas Carol Concert

At the Community Hall featuring the Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers. Contact 210834 / 211797 or events@sandtca.co.uk.

Saturday 17th February 2018 – Quiz Night

At the Community Hall. Contact 210834 / 211797 or events@sandtca.co.uk.

Tuesday 17th April 2018 - Annual Parish Meeting

At the Community Hall from 19:30. All are welcome.

Monday 21st May 2018 - Stanbridge Lower School Art in the Community Event

Details to follow nearer the time.

Saturday 14th July 2018 - St John's Church Summer Fete

On the Village Green. More details nearer the time.

Sunday 11th November 2018 - "Battle's over" 100 years since the end of WWI

At the Community Hall. See the next newsletter and Meeting Point nearer the time for more details.

COUNCIL MEMBERS & CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Telephone	Email
Maxine Whiting (Clerk)	01525 888017	maxine.whiting@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Elaine Sutton (Chair)	01525 210792	elaine.sutton@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Richard Deville (Vice)	01525 210105	richard.deville@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Martin Throsby	01525 210558	martin.throsby@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Gill Chamberlain	01525 210468	gill.chamberlain@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Pete Lidford	01525 211797	pete.lidford@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Micky Waters	01525 211666	micky.waters@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Martin Walker	01525 210238	martin.walker@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

General emails to ALL PC Councillors: contact@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk