

STANBRIDGE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Welcome to the latest Stanbridge Newsletter. We hope that you'll find this latest edition helpful and informative but also it will give you a chance to feedback what you'd like to see in the village - see end of Newsletter.

It also contains information about the Annual Parish Meeting which we still have to hold, but due to Covid restrictions it will have to be via a Zoom call on Tuesday 20th April at 7:30pm. We know this won't suit everyone but legally we have to hold the meeting and comply with government guidelines. Please see details on the next page regarding how you can join in or receive copies of the presentation.

Yet again we experienced heavy flooding in places during a long and wet winter. The Parish Council will be taking action to alleviate the flooding at the back of the village green in the near future. We are also keeping in contact with Central Beds Council to try and get more of the drains and culverts cleared. This may take longer but we'll keep trying and raising the issues. If flooding is an issue on your road, please ring **emergency number 0300 300 8049** and have the postcode available.

Reporting issues with drains, potholes, footpaths signs etc can all be done by anyone either through the Central Beds report it website www.cb-report-it.co.uk or via Fix my Street www.fixmystreet.com. To complete this type of report, you need to action from your email account. Follow the instructions which do let you know. We would encourage you all to take the time to do this as we hope greater numbers reporting may help get some of the many issues addressed.

The grass on either side of the village green lane, which we recently laid with new topsoil, turf and bulbs, (now showing through) was badly damaged by a delivery driver. This will have to be repaired in the better weather and may be done when the flooding is sorted at the back of the green in that same area.

To avoid this happening again and to stop unwanted parking, we hope to install wooden bollards either side of the lane, with reflective strips around the top for safety reasons. We also hope to replace the old and broken ones at the bottom end opposite the cottages. However, we will also install either dropping metal bollards or opening barriers on either side of the lane to allow access on to the green by vehicles as required and by permission of the PC, who will hold the keys. This is to ensure no further damage is created in unsuitable weather conditions.

Most recently, another fruit tree was very kindly donated by a resident. This has been planted on the village green on the other side of the bus shelter and is a very welcome addition. Thank you to Eddie Bates for such a great donation. We will be having the signs saying what fruit they are and who donated them engraved and fixed for all the fruit trees later this year.

Finally, and with the risk of sounding familiar, I really am stepping down as Chair this May. After 6 years in the position and almost 9 on the Parish Council I feel it's time for someone else to take a turn. I had intended to step down last year but stayed on due to Covid, only then had to take time out when my Dad became very ill, and we had family matters to sort. I know many of you have had to go through the difficulties of loved ones in hospital during Covid for the virus or like us other health reasons and appreciate how hard it is when you can't visit or be there with them. My heart goes out to you all. Please make use of the Community Response Group if you need assistance.

I will continue to help out with various activities, such as newsletter distributions, working parties, planters and the Christmas decorations (try and stop me!). We hope you all liked the additional decorations across the new fruit trees and on the Stanbridge Sign in front of the church this year.

I leave you in the very capable hands of a proactive PC with great ideas and the financial means to carry out future projects around the village. Thank you to Richard my Vice Chair and to all the team but especially to our clerk Maxine, whose guidance and support have been truly fantastic. I couldn't have managed without her

and I know she will be a great support to whoever takes over the role of Chair.
Last but by no means least THANK YOU to everyone who got involved with working parties, watering planters, delivering newsletters, The Community Response Team and litter picking etc, we couldn't do it without you. Stanbridge is a great village and we've been so lucky to live here during such a difficult time. I know being able to walk around the village and have a chat, at a suitable distance, has helped so many of us.
Sadly, I cannot invite you all to join me and the team in person for drinks and refreshments at my last Annual Parish Meeting, as it will have to be held on Zoom (see details below) but please feel free to Zoom in with a drink by your side for a final toast.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.
Elaine Sutton
Chair

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Tuesday 20th April at 7:30pm

This year the Annual Parish Meeting will have to be done on Zoom (zoom.us). Details of how you can join in will be posted on the notice board by the old post office and copies of the presentation will be posted on the Parish website before the meeting. If you cannot access the internet you can request a full copy of the presentation from our Clerk or myself Elaine. Please see the Contact details page towards the end of this newsletter for details.

NEW COUNCILLOR NEEDED

Now that I am leaving, we will be short of a Councillor and will be looking for someone who has an interest in the village and would like to help out. You will need to attend the PC meetings held monthly (2nd Tuesday of the month). Preferably as many as possible but a minimum of 6 per year. We don't meet in August. Most councillors take on the responsibility for one or more topics, but all decisions are taken jointly. All Councillors are very well supported and aided by our Clerk, Maxine. Training courses are available and will be paid for by the Parish Council.

GRANT AID

This is a scheme in which the PC can award financial grants to groups within the village that benefit many. This year we were able to increase the amount of funding available. Two notable organisations which requested Grant Aid this year, who were unable to fund raise as they would normally, were the Church and the Community Hall and we were delighted to award larger amounts than requested. We hope you all agree these were worthy recipients. We also repair and service the church clock annually and have been advised by the auditor this should come from the Grant Aid budget. Full details will be available in our annual accounts published at the time of the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

As we are in the fortunate position of having some funding to use in the village, if you have an idea or feel that the village would benefit from a change or a new addition then please let us know. Ideas will then be discussed and the most popular put forward depending on funding and when it might be available (due to planned budgets).
Please contact any of the Parish Councillors by email or by phone. All our details are on the contact sheet at the end of this email.

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

Thank you to those who nominated a recipient for this year. The announcement will be made at the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 20th April 2021.

NO PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

Please do not park on the pavement as this causes issues for the visually impaired and those with buggies or mobility scooters. Pavements are becoming very badly damaged due to the fact they are not built to take the weight of cars.

SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

Like many other activities and events, the pandemic has resulted in much fewer Speedwatch sessions, with just a few held in October and December. Sadly, more people have taken the opportunity to speed given the lighter traffic volumes. We are hoping to resume as soon as Government guidelines allow.
Speedwatch is a county wide initiative with over 75 separate groups across Bedfordshire. This group covers Stanbridge and Tilsworth, since most traffic comes through one or both villages,
We always keen to receive more volunteers. Volunteering requires 1 hour per session, with as few or as many as you can manage. Training is provided by the Police. Finally, many thanks to all for the encouragement we receive from passing pedestrians and local motorists, and to the existing volunteers.

COVID-19 – Vaccinations

As the Vaccination roll-out increases, residents will receive letters from the NHS offering the opportunity to book the initial appointment. When booking, mass vaccination sites are offered; you can either book a centre or wait to be contacted by your GP practice. A few tips:

- Local GP sites (such as Leighton) are NOT bookable via the national system, but they send a text or call you
- Nearest bookable sites are Dunstable and Wing. If you do not see these offered, keep trying as lists are updated frequently
- Most sites do not offer a choice of vaccine
- You are offered a date for your second vaccination when booking the first.
- In March, many sites are moving to 12 hours opening per day, up to 7 days per week
- Don't forget the date of your second vaccination!

The pandemic is difficult to predict and control but we can control our own behaviours – and you can use the village Community Response Team for help and advice on vaccination and other support issues.

STANBRIDGE COMMUNITY RESPONSE SCHEME

9am – 5pm 07395 932371

What an interesting year it has been. We never expected to have to set up a voluntary group in the village, but without mentioning the "C" word, we felt we needed to do something to help you all. We are pleased that we did - so many were able to take advantage of the service. We intend to continue to provide the service for the foreseeable future.

What is the Stanbridge Community Response Scheme? – It is a telephone helpline run by volunteers across the village, to help those in times of need. All you need to do is call the number above, and we will allocate a volunteer to help you.

What help do we provide? – During the last 9 months we have collected prescriptions, run errands, posted parcels and letters, gone shopping, taken residents to medical appointments, taken dogs for walks, called and chatted to residents living on their own, and so much more.

How much help have we provided? – Last Spring, we were getting on average 3-4 calls per week for help and at one point it was daily requests for help. Since then, the requests for help reduced but we are still here waiting for you to call.

What will we do going forward? – We are here to help you and if you are stuck indoors, or don't want to venture out, please call us – we will be glad to help run your errands, fetch Paracetamol from a pharmacy, pick up some more milk from the supermarket, and all these other things which you don't really like to worry someone else with. That is what we are here to do.

Who funds this scheme? – It is funded entirely by the Parish Council. There are ongoing costs, and these come out of the Parish Council funds. We were fortunate enough to be granted a gift of £500.00 from Central Bedfordshire Council to keep this scheme up and running, so please feel free to use it.

THIS IS YOUR NUMBER – PLEASE CALL 07395 932371

VILLAGE GREEN

The Bye Laws protecting the Village green, in place since 1972, strictly prohibit any motorised vehicle on the village green. Exceptions are by permission of the PC only and must be marshalled. Parking for those using the village green and play area is available in front of the church and signs indicate this. This is also safer for getting children in and out of vehicles. However, please avoid Sunday for 9.00am services.

COMMUNITY HALL

The Community Hall sadly remains closed to the general public until May 17th according to Government guidelines. Please see the Community Hall website for further details. Currently, it is only being used by Luton & Dunstable Hospital who have been running their Pulmonary Rehab sessions in the latter half of lockdown. The children's groups only will be starting up again from 12th April.

The hall will also be used for the PCC elections on 6th May.

We look forward to welcoming back all regular and new users after May 17th.

The community hall is the perfect venue for parties, weddings, club celebrations or meetings. Residents of Stanbridge receive a 25% discount on hall bookings. For information or to make a booking please contact Di & Paul Weir on 07988 827601.

Regular groups meet at the hall and welcome support from our villagers. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Cha Char Chimps, Toddler and Baby Group, a 1950's Rock 'n' Roll and Retro Line

Dance Class and a new children's dance group called Tenacity Dance.
If you are interested in becoming a committee member or wish to offer help with organising events, please contact Dave Spikesley on 01525 210093.

DEFIBRILLATORS

There are 3 defibrillators located within Stanbridge and Tilsworth. Hopefully you won't need to use one but if you do they are there for all to use. The instructions will be provided to you by the emergency services. The locations are:

- The Five Bells
- Church House
- The Anchor

STANBRIDGE LOWER SCHOOL

It was lovely that the School shared Christmas with us last year by putting a Christmas message and display on the School fences. They also shared a mini concert at the end of the term. Those of us living nearby, or passing, were treated to some lovely favourites being sung outside by the children and staff.
There was only a small group of children that continued to attend the School for the beginning of this Spring term, so it is great that all of the children have now returned and can see all their friends again. This meant a lot of extra work for the staff and parents, so well done everyone for getting through it.
Headteacher Rosemary says that on return to school, the children all settled into the day to day routines very well. They all spent the first week taking part in an emotional well-being project planned by their teachers. The children spent a lot of time outside gardening and planting seeds, building dens, making bird feeders for the newly renovated woodland garden, and focusing on the work of Andy Goldsworthy where the children created beautiful artwork from nature. The lambs also came to visit!





VILLAGES FOCUS GROUP

During both lockdowns, a small volunteer core group, has kept working on behalf of 20 Parishes & Towns. This included regular meetings until Sept with CBC decision-makers and the new CEO.
A 2020 campaign was run with neighbouring Parish Council Chairs to raise the effective implementation of planning regulations directly to the new Secretary of State and continued direct communications with the new CBC Leader & Chief of Police. But without your actions to show visible numbers the following would not have been possible: (a) pausing a CBC funded retrospective application to keep 2 unlawful sites at almost double their approved size on green belt; (b) requesting Secretary of State to examine retrospective applications that CBC is minded to approve; (c) full CBC enforcement of a retrospective application for an industrial building & aggregate storage, on agricultural land. Now returned to its original status by the landowner.
Despite frustrations, slowly, surely and together, a difference is being made. So please, keep commenting on unlawful applications AND keep reporting to the Police as 'ref numbers' determine coverage (see Police contact details for various ways to report incidents and information.).

DOG WASTE

Please pick it, bag it and bin it. Keep an eye on your dog and watch what they are doing. Don't leave it for a child or anyone to step in!!! Dog waste is harmful, particularly to children, that alone should concern every one of us. Do not dispose of dog waste from home in the red bins either, they are not emptied often enough. Dog waste can go in your own general household waste bin, not garden recycle bin – see Central Beds Council website. And please do not leave it to collect later!! We know you forget.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS & CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Telephone	Email
Maxine Whiting (Clerk)	07912 298141	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
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
Brian Houston	01525 210122	bh@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Contact Address to ALL councillors		contact@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Website		www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

OTHER USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS:

Contact / Issue	Details
Ward Councillor MarkVersallion	Cllr. Mark Versallion is our elected Central Bedfordshire Councillor. Mark can be contacted on 01525 234000 or at mark.versallion@centralbeds.gov.uk
MP – Andrew Selous	You may contact your MP via email at andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk if you have any concerns about what's happening in your area as he can take the matters further to both the Home Secretary & Communities Secretary. (Note: The Communities Secretary handles the planning policies).
Police - Offence with offenders present	999
Police - Offence with no offenders present	101
Any issues for the police	www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report
Police - BEDS ALERT	You can sign up for BEDS ALERT to get messages directly from the police at www.bedfordshirepolice.uk although we keep the most topical and relevant on our website. Also sign up to Street Watch, Speed Watch and Neighbourhood watch.
Intelligence and evidence	OpSentinelCentral@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk
Motorbikes	Motorbikes have Special Operations called 'Operations Meteor' – email opmeteorinbox@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk or call 101
Loose animals (horses, dogs etc)	999 if road hazard, otherwise RSPCA (call 0300 1234 999 or online https://rspca-bedfordshiresouth.org.uk). Call CBC (0300 300 8302) if confinement concerns.
Crimestoppers	Crimestoppers can be called **anonymously** on 0800 555 111 or use website www.crimestoppers-uk.org. NFU and Crimestoppers now have additional reporting methods, by phone on 0800 7830137 or at www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk
Victim Support (SIGNPOST)	You can ring them on 0800 0282 887 out of hours. You can leave a voicemail and they will call you back or by email on info@signpostforbedfordshire.com or www.signpostforbedfordshire.com/hub
Beds Police Rural and Farming Liaison Officer	rural.liaison@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk
CBC - Customer Services	You can report problems such as potholes, streetlights not

	working, grass verge cutting, drainage and flooding planning issues and much more through the online system at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or email CBC Customer Services: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Full rubbish bins, Tidy Tip information etc	Tel 0300 300 8301
HGVs through the village	Please report to customersupport@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk Please give details of reg numbers, company name where possible, date and times of offence. Weight limit in village is 7.5 tonnes.
Police crime survey	This helps set local priorities: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BedsPoliceHaveYourSay
Information relating to incidents in Tilsworth or Stanbridge but not relayed to the police under 101 or 999	Please contact ruralcommunityst@hotmail.com if you wish to have the information collated and logged. Your name will not be passed on unless you state it can be.
Fly tipping	Can be reported through 'Fix my Street' or through Central Beds office on Telephone: 0300 300 8302 Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
What3Words	A useful tool to give an exact location of concern when reporting to the police or CBC - https://what3words.com/

Defibrillators are located at:

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- Church House
- The Anchor