



Old Stratford Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2023

For Residents of Old Stratford and Passenheim

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Chairman's Update

Currently Old Stratford has one major planning application pending decision, which is known as Furtho Pit Warehousing. This proposed development continues to be very emotive and has seen many objections posted to West Northamptonshire Council Planning department.

Residents of Old Stratford should be assured that the Parish Council are continuing to monitor the reams of documents being put forward by the developer. To date the Parish Council has written three formal objections regarding the documentation submitted and we will continue to screen this paperwork to ensure that West Northants Council's Planning Department are continually reminded of their responsibilities to our community. Our objections to this application cover a wide range of issues, including size and scale of development, loss of biodiversity, highways and traffic issues and increased flood risk in the area and have highlighted to West Northants Council's Planners the many anomalies in the data presented by the applicant along with the flaws in the Consultants Assessments. We will continue to represent our community on this matter and work towards a positive outcome.

The other significant proposal in the Parish has been for housing at the Meadows. This application has been withdrawn following the objection posted by Milton Keynes Council highlighting flooding concerns, as the site is situated within the flood-plain and must be assumed that it would have a negative effect on the development site of the old gasworks in Stony Stratford.

We have had a number of new Councillors co-opted to the Parish Council over the past few months. We would like to welcome them and thank them for their contributions to maintaining the services to our community. If anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the clerk or keep an eye on our website/facebook site for upcoming vacancies or elections.

If you wish to report any issues relating to our village please contact our Parish Clerk, Nicky Laurence (contact details on back page).

Tony Pateman,
Chairman

OSPC Staff Changes

After 30 years of dedicated service as Clerk to the Parish, Derek Everett retired at the end of June. To mark the occasion the Parish Council awarded him the “freedom of the Parish” and have named the playing fields at the Community Hall in his honour. The Councillors wish to say “thank you” for all he has done for the Parish and will no-doubt miss his knowledge and guidance!



Nicky Laurence has now taken on the Clerk’s role and is gradually finding her feet, so please allow a little extra time for enquiries to be addressed.

Old Stratford in Bloom (OSIB)

Old Stratford in Bloom have a busy few weeks ahead of them! Summer plants will be taken out in October and new winter plants will go in, with an emphasis on sustainability. The geraniums that are coming out will winter in the greenhouse to re-use next summer. The Heucheras and Polyanthas have been in the stock garden at the back of the Memorial Hall ready for planting in October.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help the Old Stratford in Bloom team (who are themselves volunteers), are encouraged to attend the next Work party meeting at the back of the Memorial Hall on Friday 20th October (main planting day) 9.30am onwards, with a possible overspill to Sunday 22nd October 9.30am. Contact: Maggie on 07809 764497

Remembrance Sunday Ceremony



On Sunday 12th November, a short ceremony of remembrance will be held at the Memorial Hall at 11am to pay our respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, in the two World Wars and more recent conflicts. Everyone is welcome to attend; we will gather at the hall from 10:45am.

Whalley’s Apprenticing Charity

Applicants of 16 years and over, can claim up to £100 towards books and equipment required for their chosen profession.

For more information or an application form please contact karen.phillips440@gmail.com

Community Hall Update

We now have a Facebook page – ‘Old Stratford Community Hall News’ – which our Manageress will be updating as regularly as possible with new groups and other community events.

Please keep an eye out in this newsletter and on Facebook for other new community events that we are hoping to hold next year. If you have any ideas or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you!

Please find below some information relating to our two biggest community events coming up:

Fireworks Display Saturday 4th November (5.30pm – 7.30pm)

Come along and join in the fun at the Old Stratford Fireworks Display and help support your community groups.

The gates open at 5.30pm, with the display starting around 6.30pm for 15-20 minutes.

Please come earlier and support our groups with their much-needed fundraising. Admission prices remain the same: FREE to anyone under 16 and only £2.50 for 16 and over.

We currently can only accept cash on the gate and at the various stalls/rides outside due to wifi limitations, so but please bring cash with you on the evening (coins even better as we quickly run out!!).

Please remember, for licensing reasons, only alcohol purchased in our on-site bar can be consumed at the event. Fireworks can be dangerous – please keep a close eye on your children and don't allow them to wander beyond the roped off area for their own safety.

Unfortunately there is NO on-site parking available for this event, including disabled parking, as the car park area will be for pedestrians and stalls. Parking along the Deanshanger Road gets filled up very quickly, so please walk to the venue if you can.

This year we have decided to keep the bar open for the rest of the evening, along with a disco for the children, so why not make an evening of it!



Senior Citizens Christmas Meal. Sat 2nd December (from 4pm)

This will be our first year without Janet Ranson helping us with delivering and collating invitation responses, so please bear with us on this. Sue Price, the Hall's manageress, will be collating responses so please reply to the telephone number on the invitation when that arrives.



Invitations will be delivered soon but please reply by the 2nd November as we need to agree numbers early.

We had such positive comments from you all last year about the meal that we have asked Heather from the Conservative Club to prepare the main course again. Also, as you all said how much you enjoyed our new singer, Sally, she will be returning this year to entertain you for the afternoon. Please bear in mind, if you miss the 2nd November RSVP date then we may not be able to offer you a place.

If you are new to the village or have never been before and would like some more information, please contact the Hall on 01908 307461 and we will send you an invitation. If we don't know about you, we can't invite you! We welcome any resident of the village over the age of 65, however if you have a partner who is under 65, they are very welcome to join you. Or if you have a carer who needs to assist you, they are also welcome. Please mention this to Sue when confirming your place, as well as letting us know any dietary requirements and need for a lift to/from the Hall on the day.

Come along and enjoy a festive afternoon with us!

Senior Citizens Afternoon Teas

The monthly Afternoon Teas in the Memorial Hall (behind the village shop) are organised and run by Lesley and Linda, on the last Friday of every month between 2pm and 4pm. Any senior citizen is welcome; you don't have to be a village resident to attend, so come and spend a couple of hours chatting with your friends.



Old Stratford Preschool

We are thrilled to be back for a new school year and are really enjoying getting to know all our lovely new children who are now at our setting. What's been really fantastic is our increased outdoor area that we now have. The children have so much more space outside and they absolutely love it. We are extremely grateful to the parish council for making this happen.



We achieved a Good rating from our Ofsted inspection in July so a huge well done to everyone involved. We also received an Outstanding judgement for Behaviours & Attitudes which we are really proud of. It was incredibly rewarding to hear all the kind words the inspector had to say - please do check out the report on our website.

We are really looking forward to this year's fireworks display and hope yet again to be able to offer for sale some BBQ food and hot drinks - more details coming soon but please do try and come along and support us. We're a charity run preschool so any profits go directly to helping us keep the school going and to get new equipment for the children.

If you are interested in your child attending please do get in contact and we can answer any questions you may have.

- Places available for children aged 2 until school entry
- Open Term Time M-F 8:30-15:00
- Breakfast Club Available from 7:30
- Government Funded places available



Would you like more information about the preschool?

Call or email Dawn on 01908 260664 or
manager@oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk

Old Stratford Community Hall, Deanshanger Road, MK19 6NL



Old Stratford Preschool is a registered charity
(number 1033454).

Please scan the QR code or visit the web address
below to find out how you can help us!

www.oldstratfordpreschool.org/help

Reporting Issues in the Parish

Residents wishing to report an issue with our roads or rights of way are encouraged to report via “fix my street” www.fixmystreet.com. The reports are forwarded directly to the relevant department for resolution.



They also have a handy app which can be downloaded on your phone and enables you to send a report with photos for many issues including abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, fly tipping, potholes, blocked drains and failed traffic lights. You will also receive updates on the actions being taken

Alternatively the Parish Clerk can assist with reporting, but please provide photographs if possible.

Bag that Poo - Any rubbish bin will do!

Dog fouling – loose or bagged – is offensive, disgusting and a potential health hazard. The Parish Council has received complaints from residents about dogs fouling the footpaths, children’s play areas and the playing field at the Community Hall.

We know most dog owners are responsible and do clean up after their dogs, however there are many sites around the Parish where bagged poo is repeatedly left or thrown into hedgerows. If a dog waste bin is not available, then the bagged poo can be placed into any rubbish bin.

Towcester Area Door to Door (TADD)

This is an urgent appeal to the people of Old Stratford to consider becoming a volunteer driver – you need a car, a few free hours a week and a desire to help your neighbours. For more details about becoming a TADD volunteer driver visit our website or send us a message.

There are lots of elderly and mobility restricted people in Old Stratford who rely on TADD for door-to-door transport to their medical and well-being appointments. The service is crucial to their ability to remain independently at home in the village. We have only 3 drivers based in Old Stratford to serve 10 members. As a result, in July, we had to repeatedly ask drivers from as far away as Towcester and Silverstone to travel to Old Stratford to take members to their appointments. This cuts across our objective of using local volunteer drivers to minimise wasted mileage costs but also to provide a friendly face from the member’s own community.

<https://www.towcesterareadoor2door.com/>

Neighbourhood Watch



At this time of the year as the evenings grow darker, it is easy for potential burglars to tell which homes are unoccupied, they just look to see which ones have lights on! A timer is a good idea. Link it to a hall light so that the light will show through several windows giving the impression more than one room is occupied.

Trick or Treat

Halloween is coming soon and is a fun time for the young ones but not everyone enjoys it! Playing pranks with flour and eggs can have serious consequences.

1. Please take young children out in organised groups.
2. Do not knock on doors that say No Trick or Treat
3. Be visible with torches and stay in well-lit areas.
4. Do not enter any houses always stay on the doorstep.
5. Finally please do not frighten the elderly or very young.
6. Be safe and enjoy yourselves.

A reminder about Christmas! Please do not leave any presents (wrapped or unwrapped) in view of any window or door, as this can be too much temptation for thieves.

Reporting Crime

If you are unlucky and have been a victim of crime you can report it in several ways:

- If it's an emergency and the crime is still taking place, call 999 and ask for the police.
- **If it's not an emergency, do not call 999.** This doesn't mean the crime is not important – it just helps the police to make the best use of their resources. Northants Police use the **101** non-emergency number, so you can ring that number instead.
- If you have information regarding a crime and don't want to talk to the police, contact the charity Crimestoppers online or call 0800 555 111. You will remain 100% anonymous. Always.

Please note: Neighbourhood Watch does not take reports of crime.

Following a crime

- **Prevent others becoming a victim:** The quicker you act, the sooner you might stop someone else becoming a victim.
- **Support for yourself:** If you have been affected by crime and need confidential emotional support or advice on what to do next, you can contact Victim Support on **08 08 16 89 111**.

Old Stratford Parish are currently looking for a Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Clerk.

Councillor Contact Details

Role	Name	Address	Telephone
OSPC Chairman	Tony Pateman	32 Mounthill Avenue	01908 567907
		Tony.pateman@oldstratford.org.uk	
OSPC Vice Chairman	Ray Smith	18 Deanshanger Road	01908 564815
		Ray.smith@oldstratford.org.uk	
OSPC Councillors	Tania Arthur	Firs Farm, Towcester Rd	07957 288080
	Colin Carey	71 Dickens Drive	01908 569171
	Mike Fitch	3 Wharf Lane	07485 573109
	Nickie Gibbs	48 Oxfield Park Dr	07952 670517
	Alan Holloway	45 Willow Grove	01908 562761
	Michael Kelk	85 Deanshanger Rd	07515 058598
	Lynda Murgatroyd	19 Towcester Road	07713 622328
	Rosemary Tolley	Gardeners Bungalow, Passenham,	07775 508354
	Ian Watson	34 Mounthill Avenue	01908 265377
	Councillor emails: firstname.surname@oldstratford.org.uk		
OSPC Clerk	Nicky Laurence	11 Chapmans Drive	07767 854983
		clerk@oldstratford.org.uk	
District Councillor	Kenneth Pritchard		07764 939070
		Ken.Pritchard@westnorthants.gov.uk	

Contact details

Find us on 

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/OldStratfordParishCouncil/>

Website: www.oldstratford.org.uk