



# Old Stratford Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2022

For Residents of Old Stratford and Passenheim

## In This Issue

- Chairman's Update
- Jubilee Celebrations
- Planning and Highways
- Old Stratford in Bloom
- Community Hall
- Community News
- Pre-school
- Get in Touch

## Chairman's Update

Since our last newsletter, the Parish Council have been dealing with a number of contentious planning issues, including the West Northants Strategic Plan and Furtho Pit development proposals. We are also in the process of planning a street party style event at the community centre in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and hope to see many residents, marking the occasion with us. Should you wish to be involved in the Jubilee event, then we would love to hear from you (more details of both the planning issues and celebrations follow)

Work has begun to install high speed fibre optic broadband in the area. It appears that there will be some amount of disruption but we are assured by the Company doing the work (Gigaclear) that disruption will be at a minimum. We have been informed by Gigaclear that complete reinstatement of pavements and grass verges can take up to six months to complete, which we have advised is not acceptable and should happen as work is completed. Once contractors leave the area, it can be difficult to rectify, so please let us know ASAP if work is unsatisfactory.

Speed indicator devices are now active in Old Stratford and Passenheim and I think they have certainly made a difference. We are collecting their data and, where there are trends of speeding incidents, we will pass this data to the Police so they can target enforcement activities accordingly.

The 89 Britannia bus service is currently reduced, only running to Milton Keynes on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 10:08 and returning 11:30. We understand Britannia are looking to reinstate the service with the support West Northants Council, but in the meantime the X60 runs hourly (approx) from the village into central Milton Keynes.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillor's for their time and effort voluntarily managing the Council affairs in our Parish. As ever, thanks also to our Parish Clerk, Derek, for his tireless work. We currently have a vacancy for a Councillor, so if you feel you could make a difference in our community, please get in touch!

**Tony Pateman, Chairman**

**Please note:** there will be no annual open meeting held this year. If you have questions that would have been addressed at this meeting, please contact our Clerk

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event

# Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The UK has a long history of organised street parties to celebrate national events. Recognising it is not always possible to hold street parties in your road, for example if it is a through route or the traffic is too fast to be safe, OSPC are ensuring residents can have their "street party" at the Community Hall grounds. Everyone is invited to share in this spectacular weekend of celebration, enjoying food, drinks and fun with family, loved ones, friends and neighbours.



### Thursday 2nd June from 7.45pm

Joining the national beacon lighting across the country, the village beacon will be lit as it gets dark (8:45pm). BBQ and bar available!

### Jubilee Celebration Day - Saturday 4th June 2022 2-10:00pm

Children's rides, face painting, ice-cream vans, bouncy castle and much more. Pig Roast & BBQ, Stalls, Bar and Live Entertainment

### Family Street party - Sunday 5th June 2022 12-16:00pm

Bring your own picnics and use the community hall for your street party!

Both Saturday & Sunday you can bring your own picnic, tables, chairs & gazebos for a street party style event. The organisers politely ask that attendees:

- do not bring BBQ's
- use plastic glasses in case of breakage
- tidy any rubbish/litter generated by your group before leaving

If you are interested in being involved in organising the Jubilee event, are a local business that would like a stall or have other suggestions as to ways we can mark the occasion, then we would love to hear from you – email: [Nicky.laurence@oldstratford.org.uk](mailto:Nicky.laurence@oldstratford.org.uk)

PLEASE NOTE: For anyone who may wish to organise their own street party, with associated road closure, you usually have to apply at least 12 weeks in advance for a road closure. Please check out the West Northamptonshire Council's Platinum Jubilee webpages for further information <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/>

*(Parish Council funding will not be available for individual street parties).*

## West Northants Council Strategic Plan.

West Northamptonshire Council is preparing a new strategic development plan for the area, running to 2050. Old Stratford Parish Council have responded with a seven-page document highlighting the shortcomings of the plan, which consulted on the development of the Council area. The shortcomings which are too numerous to go into in this newsletter, but the Parish Council did make their concerns known in no uncertain terms. The full response can be found on our Parish Council website. Our response also commented on the shortcomings of the possible development which was shown in the Strategic Plan including potential developments from the Old Stratford Roundabout along the A5 to Potterspury. Again this response can be read on our website.

The Parish Council are actively involved with the A5 Alliance Group, a conglomerate of parish councils and other interest groups who have combined to make representations to West Northamptonshire Council regarding their Strategic Plan and liaise with our local MP regarding these matters.

---

## Furtho Pit Development

Many residents will have seen the leaflet drop made by Framptons, the Company making the Application to build a total of 9 logistic units around the old Cosgrove Road and in the limekiln fields. The Parish Council has written to the chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee to give this Committee historic background to this site and have also highlighted many concerns in respect of traffic volumes from this development and issues arising from any Motorway closures (M1) due to serious accidents. We also pointed out that West Northamptonshire Council in their Strategic Plan highlighted the A5 Old Stratford Roundabout as an arterial pinch point. The hope is that the West Northamptonshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee make a site visit to establish the problems that the Parish Council have highlighted.

---

## Road Conditions and Pot holes

The Parish Council continues to report damage, such as potholes in roads and pavements, but we are frequently advised that the holes are not of sufficient size to merit repair. Residents wishing to report an issue with our roads or rights of way can either get in contact with the Parish Clerk or report directly to <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

---

## Old Stratford Parish Clean Up

OSPC would like to send a massive THANK YOU to all those who have been active in village litter pick, including that on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022. If anyone is looking to undertake any such tasks, please let our Clerk know so we can ensure you are covered by our insurance.

**A reminder:** please could you check that your bins are secure to prevent accidental littering in high winds!.

## Old Stratford in Bloom (OSIB)

Another Spring is upon us and it is wonderful to see the plants awakening after Winter. The polyanthus at our traffic lights are looking particularly cheerful and bright!

This year, two Himalayan Birch trees are to be planted in order to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (planting location is yet to be decided). As part of the celebrations royal colours are to be used in our planters. Yellow African Marigolds and Purple Lobelia have been ordered and, in the greenhouse, French Marigolds, Lupins, Holyhocks and Sweet Pea seeds have been sown and are beginning to show.



The green by the shop is a work in progress. Various plants have been dug in and art work is being prepared, reflecting our connection to the canal and the fact that this was a small tunnel.

All volunteers are welcome at our work parties. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Mo Holloway on 07739 797717 or Maggie Elliott on 07809 764497

---

## Changes to Green Bin Service

From April, garden waste collections will be an optional, chargeable service for all households in West Northants. The annual subscription charge for the fortnightly service from April 2022 to the end of March 2023 is £42 per bin.

Find out more and subscribe online by searching for "Garden Waste" at [www.westnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)

---

## 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.



## Community Hall Update

First of all, it's been so nice to see our regular hirers slowly return to the Hall and to open our doors to group bookings again. The Hall is now getting extremely busy with functions so we are finally, hopefully, stepping away from the difficulties of the past couple of years.

There have been a few changes at the Hall in recent months. Our Manager, Tony Locke, decided to step away from the Hall in December but we are delighted to announce that another village resident, Sue Price, has joined the team and is now the new Caretaker/Manageress. We would like to thank Tony for all his help during the pandemic, and welcome Sue to the Hall. Please don't forget that we offer discounted hire rates to village residents so when you are thinking of where to hold a child's party or some other special occasion, not only are we offering very competitive rates to other local halls, you are also supporting your community as well. Contact by email or phone ([oldstratfordcommunityhall2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oldstratfordcommunityhall2@hotmail.co.uk) / 01908 307461) and we will get back to you with more information.

---

### The Old Stratford Community Hall Committee

---

## Senior Citizens Christmas Meal.

It was with great sadness that we had to cancel the Christmas meal at short notice due to the spreading Covid variant. Our priority has always been to the health and safety of the guests and the volunteers, so we felt it was too risky to bring over 70 senior citizens and 10 volunteers together in an enclosed space. The decision was not taken lightly and we are aware that some people were very disappointed that it was cancelled. We had already purchased Christmas gifts for everyone so these were distributed by hand so that we could apologise personally. We would like to extend our thanks to Janet Ransom for all her hard work in distributing the invitations prior to the cancellation, and to Lesley and Kevin Peach who helped us last minute with finding some alternative entertainment as our regular entertainers were unable to attend due to the restrictions.

We hope to welcome you all to this year's event which will be on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. If you are new to the village, anyone over the age of 65 is eligible to receive an invitation so please get in touch with the Hall if you would like to be added to the list. If we don't know about you, we can't invite you! The hall's number is 01908 307461.

---

## What's On - Community Hall

We have a wide variety of activities that regularly take place at the Hall which cater for all ages and all abilities. Some groups are struggling for numbers and it would be a real shame if they had to close due to lack of interest. We offer weekly sessions of Zumba and Zumba Gold (a Latin American dance/exercise class), Karate (for adults and children), Short Mat Bowls, Slimming World, Weight Watchers, Football, SocaTots, Char Char Chimps, and others – have a look at the display boards in the foyer for more information, there really is something for everyone and new members are always welcome.

## Senior Citizens Afternoon Teas

These continue to run on the last Friday of every month (except December), between 2pm and 4pm, offering hot drinks, sandwiches and cakes. It's a lovely way to spend a couple of hours chatting with friends, or having a game of bingo.

---

## Fireworks Display

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November (5.30pm – 7.30pm)**

Thank you to everyone who attended last year's Fireworks Display at the Community Hall – we hope you all had a lovely evening. This was our busiest event yet, probably due to a number of large events having been cancelled due to Covid, so we were really pleased with the turnout. Thank you for supporting our local groups, they really do appreciate it.

This year the Fireworks Display is provisionally booked for **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November** – we will confirm the date and admission fees in the next edition of the newsletter. Gates open at 5.30pm with the display usually starting around 6.30pm, but please come before the display as this is the biggest fundraising event of the year for our village pre-school .

---

## Telephone Scam Alert



Northamptonshire Police have reported a scam involving an elderly woman: A very persistent person, wanting various information, including the make of her TV, mums name etc, was obviously keeping her on the phone trying to get any clues they could to get her password for her bank account. He actually asked her for her pin or part of her card number. He kept her talking for ages but thankfully she didn't give anything away.

The next day a really 'lovely' man, same phone number, apologised for his colleague's horrid way of speaking to her, but tried to get her pin and bank account details from her, she put the phone down - Bad cop, good cop! The Number used is an untraceable number.

This person did exactly the right thing in not giving any details, please make sure to tell any elderly relatives or neighbours not to give out any details over the phone or anyone calling at the door. The Police, Banking, Energy, etc companies will never call you asking for this information. What you can do:

- If a caller at the door, call 999 as this is a crime in progress.
- On landline phones, contact your provider about call blocker.
- Report any scam attempts to Action Fraud [tel:0300 1232040](tel:03001232040)

for more advice go to [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) and search for "scams".

---

## 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 application form please contact Derek Everett the Parish Clerk on **01908 569053**

## Old Stratford Pre-School

The Community Centre, Deanshanger Rd, Old Stratford,

Registered Charity no.1033454 OFSTED no. 219885

Old Stratford Preschool is a community preschool run by a parent committee. We offer children the opportunity to Play-Learn and grow together in a safe and stimulating environment while developing core skills in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. We achieve this by Planning in the Moment, considering the child's key interests at that time and sharing our findings with the parents



Old Stratford Preschool aims to:

- ❖ Provide a high-quality care and education for pre-school children
- ❖ Work in partnership with parents to help their children learn and develop
- ❖ Offer children and their parents a service that promotes equality and values diversity
- ❖ Promoting the life and well-being of our community

We are open Monday -Friday during term time from 8:30-15:00 offering full and half-day sessions (minimum two sessions per week) We also offer a breakfast club from 7:30am.

**All children aged 2years until school entry are welcome. Spaces available for our funded (15 & 30 hours) and non-funded sessions**

**Open day - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 from 10 - 1pm,  
Please come along and join us and meet the team.**

Please contact Dawn to learn more about the preschool and view our excellent facilities! [manager@oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk](mailto:manager@oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk)  
Tel: 01908 260664 <https://www.oldstratfordpreschool.org/>

## Towcester Area Door to Door (TADD)

If you are a car owner and could spare some time each week to transport an elderly or disabled person to and from a medical or wellbeing related appointment, TADD would be delighted to hear from you.

There are lots of elderly and mobility restricted people in Old Stratford Parish who rely on TADD for door-to-door transport to their medical and well-being appointments.

Most customers say they appreciate the wonderful door-to-door service that TADD provides. Even those who still drive a little themselves appreciate the ease of getting to hospital with the service as they do not have the stress of finding a parking space and the correct entrance.

For more information please visit  
<https://www.towcesterareadoor2door.com/>

## Contact details

## 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    | Chris Allin   | 23 The Meadows                      | 01908 565648 |
|                     | Colin Carey   | 71 Dickens Drive                    | 01908 569171 |
|                     | Alan Holloway   | 45 Willow Grove                     | 01908 562761 |
|                     | Karen Morris  | 95 Deanshanger Road                 | 07532 161875 |
|                     | Lynda Murgatroyd  | 19 Towcester Road                   | 07713 622328 |
|                     | Linda Ritson  | The Old Rectory, Passenheim         | 01908 566014 |
|                     | Dr Stewart Tolley   | The Gardeners Bungalow, Passenheim, | 07825 854326 |
|                     | Dawn Wallace  | 23 Dickens Drive                    | 07540 777796 |
|                     | VACANCY   |                                     |              |
|                     | <b>Councillor emails:</b><br><a href="mailto:firstname.surname@oldstratford.org.uk">firstname.surname@oldstratford.org.uk</a> |                                     |              |
| OSPC Clerk          | Derek Everett   | 10 Deanshanger Road                 | 01908 569053 |
|                     |   | clerk@oldstratford.org.uk           |              |
| District Councillor | Kenneth Pritchard   | The Barn, Puxley Road               | 07764 939070 |
|                     |   | Ken.Pritchard@westnorthants.gov.uk  |              |

Find us on 

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

Website: [www.oldstratford.org.uk](http://www.oldstratford.org.uk)