



Standish Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

Standish House: *Keeping You Up to Date*



Standish House: work gets underway

Since our July newsletter, your Parish Council has organised a public meeting where the Standish House developers, PJ Livesey (PJL), outlined their plans and there's been an open afternoon with tours round the Standish House site, including access to the house itself. Both events were well attended by Standish residents, a number of whom have told us that they now feel more positive about proposals for the development of the site.

PJL have been active on the site in recent months, looking at levels and ground conditions and carrying out tree surveys. Plans are changing slightly as they carry out this work, and the current draft plan is for 70 new houses and 55 conversion properties - a reduction in new build (with less large properties) from the original plan. PJL are proposing to remove the cottages near the northern entrance to the site - instead, planning a small row of "workers' cottages" overlooking the bridleway. Overall, the new build

will prioritise terraces and semi-detached properties. There will be a small number of one-bed apartments in existing buildings - this number could be increased if there is local demand. A new development is that they are looking at retaining the hydrotherapy pool building and converting it into one or two new houses. Plans for Standish House, the ward blocks and stable block remain broadly unchanged.

PJL have started to introduce some off-road footpaths through the site and are talking to County Highways about ensuring safe access into the site, including improved pedestrian and cycle links. They remain committed to retaining and improving public rights of way, re-establishing the former historic gardens and enhancing ecological features such as the pond and brook. Their tree surveys have categorised trees across the site and a number of low quality trees will be removed to create areas for development with low visual impact,

while medium and high quality trees will be retained.

As the Parish Council's representatives on the Standish House Partnership Board, Sue Hartley and Sue Oppenheimer have pressed the issue of community facilities on the site. An early suggestion that the stable block might be used as a coffee shop/ meeting place and permanent exhibition centre has been sidelined due to cost and because it would increase the number of new build homes needed, which would not be acceptable to the District Council. However, PJL are looking at the possibility of a shop/coffee shop at the gatehouse, which would be combined with the development of a vineyard at the lower end of the site. They share our interest in ensuring that historical information is made accessible on the site. ■

SUE HARTLEY

Standish House Public Consultation Event

**27th January 2-6pm
and 28th January
9am-12noon at
Standish Village Hall**

PJ Livesey have organised this event to share details of their current plans. There will be displays and their design/consultant team will be on hand to answer questions and hear your views. We hope you will come and take part!

Successful Funding Bid for Multi-User Path Feasibility Study

In our last newsletter, we reported that the Parish Council had made a funding bid to the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner to pay for a feasibility study for a multi-user path along the B4008 and for improved connectivity between off-road paths in the Parish.

We asked you to keep your fingers crossed, which several of you must have done, because our bid was successful and we were granted £3,700! This is a significant achievement as the fund was over-subscribed. The Mid-Cotswold Tracks and Trails Group kindly provided the final £300 of the total £4,000 cost of the feasibility study. (This was by returning a £100 grant, previously awarded to them by Standish Parish Council to develop the idea, and by donating £200 themselves.) Mid-Cotswold Tracks and Trails Group's stated aim is "helping to improve our tracks and trails... from this generation to the next". Many of its members are keen horse riders who use such routes.

The Parish Council has appointed Philip Cooke of Destination

Marketing Group (DMG) to carry out the feasibility study titled: "The Standish B4008 and Bridleways Project". The study's stated purpose is: "to make the B4008 between Horsemarling Lane and Little Haresfield... safer and more enjoyable for non-motorised users".

Working with a Steering Group of Cllrs Sue Oppenheimer, Sue Hartley and Robert Kellie, DMG has produced some initial ideas for consultation which it is hoped will be made public at a presentation to the Council's meeting on February 9th.

The continuing study will now see DMG carry out extensive consultation with landowners, residents and other stakeholders such as Gloucestershire Highways and neighbouring parish/town councils.

We expect the study to be complete by the end of March 2017. It will then come before Standish Parish Council for a decision as to whether - if this exciting project is feasible - the Council wishes to progress it.

SUE OPPENHEIMER/JO BARBER

The Standish War Memorial



The war memorial: in need of care

The First World War took place a hundred years ago, and 2016 saw the centenary of the Battle of the Somme where there were over a million casualties. Nine men from Standish lost their lives in the First World War: eight joined the army and died in battles in France and Belgium and one joined the Navy and was in a destroyer in the North Sea when it was hit by a torpedo. In the Second World War, a Standish man serving in the RAF was killed in action. It is important that we continue to remember the sacrifice that these men made serving their country.

The writing on the Standish War Memorial is worn and difficult to read and many letters are missing. The Parish Council has taken advice from a stonemason who has said that the lettering is too worn to be re-cut. He has recommended that we consider fixing a plaque to the War Memorial, listing the names of those who died. We would need the approval of the Parochial Church Council and the Diocese for this as the War Memorial is in the cemetery. On the advice of the Diocese we have approached the War Memorials Trust, which is currently offering up to 75% grant funding for restoration work, and completed a pre-application form. We would also like to include the name of Robert Nairac, a member of the SAS who died in service in Northern Ireland. ■

GRAHAM STEVENS



Superfast Broadband Update

Sadly, at present, there is little news on the broadband front. The "Fastershire" procurement tenders went out in September for the next tranche of works and a decision as to which communities would benefit was expected in late December/early January. This has now been delayed until early February.

Suffice it to say that Standish is in the running but there are some other highly populated areas with anomalies, especially in Cheltenham, and these may get priority.

I circulated a link to the village email list, asking residents to take part in a Fastershire survey on local broadband needs. The results of the survey will help to demonstrate the level of demand in communities yet to benefit from the Fastershire rollout so, if you have not yet taken part, I urge you to do so to strengthen our case. Note that, although the original closure of the survey was the end of November, the site is still up and the more responses from Standish, the better! To complete the survey, please visit www.broadband-feedback.com. ■

ROBERT KELLIE

Javelin Park Incinerator: Air Quality Monitoring, Tree Screening & the Power Cable



Drawing shows why tree screening is needed closer to Standish

In our last newsletter, I wrote about the independent air quality monitoring which your Parish Council representatives had been pressing Urbaser Balfour Beatty (UBB) to fund. The purpose is to establish baseline air quality measurements before the incinerator is commissioned, and to continue measurement for a period once it is operational. We successfully made the case for the monitoring of both particulate matter (PM) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2). Urbaser have now agreed to fully fund the monitoring, starting 5 months before operation starts and continuing for 3 years thereafter. Independent monitoring is rare in the UK and this arrangement is unique in that the contractor has voluntarily agreed to fund the monitoring (there is no Section 106 agreement) and the District Council has agreed to undertake the work

(at cost). Results will be made publicly available.

Your representatives on the Community Liaison Group (CLG) with UBB - Robert Kellie and Sue Hartley - have also been working on a proposal for some strategic tree screening in the parish. With the incinerator height varying from 15.65 metres to 48.5 metres (not to mention the 70 metre chimney), it is evident that trees planted on the site itself will do little to shield it from view. We have made the case for trees to be planted on three sites locally, to protect some of our views from the village, and have been successful in persuading Urbaser to foot the bill for supply and planting of a mixture of native trees.

Recently, we have been informed of the proposal to run a cable - carrying the electricity generated by the incinerator - along the B4008 from Javelin Park to the electricity sub-station at Ryeford. Stonehouse has voiced concern about the impact on the High Street but, of course, the laying of the cable will affect everyone in Standish for the period of months that it takes to complete the work. This is the responsibility of

Western Power Distribution (WPD), who have so far declined to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the issue. We want to know why the two alternative routes, which were studied as part of UBB's planning application, have been ruled out of consideration and, to date, we have not been given an answer. However, we have successfully pressed for WPD to come to the January meeting of the CLG when we hope to have our concerns addressed. We have asked MP Neil Carmichael for support over this issue and he will also be represented at the CLG meeting.

You will all have seen that work on the Javelin Park site is now proceeding apace. CLG meetings continue on a bi-monthly basis and are there to share developments and air concerns over the progress of the build. Minutes of the meetings are publicly available and we are uploading these onto our website www.standishvillage.co.uk for your convenience. You can also find out more about the build on UBB's own website - www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk. Do let your CLG representatives know if you have any concerns you would like raised or queries answered. ■

SH

Keeping in Touch

Standish Parish Council has launched its new website. Together with Standish Village Hall, we agreed that a shared website made sense, so that all your village information can be found in the one place. The website can be found at: www.standishvillage.co.uk

A new council website was needed after the old one provided for some years by Stroud District Council was withdrawn. Details of council activities, including dates of future meetings, are included.

We also make use of a village email list, shared with the Village Hall Committee, through which we can keep you informed of events from time to time. Please let one of us know if you would like to be added to - or removed from - this list. And don't forget our monthly updates in Span and our two noticeboards, located by the Village Hall and in the lay-by on Oxlynch Lane. ■

JO BARBER / SUE HARTLEY

Neighbourhood Development Plan

A meeting in November discussed progressing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Standish. Only three people attended, but we all felt that it would be worthwhile to proceed if possible. We are hoping to get some professional support, and will be meeting with a consultant in the near future.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan would give us more of a say over planning and developments in our Parish, provide some protection from unwanted development, and help us qualify for certain grants. If you would be prepared to help, do get in touch - we'd love to hear from you!

SO

Footpath Working Party

The Parish Council has been concerned for some time about the state of some of the footpaths and bridleways in the parish, and residents have frequently asked us to help improve them.

It is the responsibility of the Public Rights of Way team (now part of the County Council's contract with AMEY) and of landowners to maintain paths. But we can do low-level maintenance and also gather evidence on what needs doing. We can also ask for help from the Cotswold Conservation Board volunteers who carry out improvements in the Cotswold AONB, and from people undertaking community service sentences.

We therefore decided to organise a footpath working party with a walk every two months. Not only can we

identify and make improvements, but it's also a chance to get together with other residents and explore paths in the area.

Our first footpath walk in November attracted just 4 residents. We walked from Oxlynch to Arlebrook and across field paths back again. We cleared brambles and identified dangerous stiles and areas where better signage would help walkers keep to paths. We also learnt lessons to help improve future walks: we will take a camera and make notes as we're walking to record exactly what needs doing; and gardening gloves are essential when dealing with brambles!

See below for details of our next walk on 22nd January - please do come and join us! ■

so

Standish Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee has done various works to ensure essential maintenance of our listed building, but minor improvements have also been made to save energy and improve comfort. We have installed hand dryers in the loos, the high gable end windows now have internal double glazing and two wall heaters have been replaced. Not visible is the strengthening of the ceiling rafters and new loft insulation. A new vacuum cleaner is in service and deployed more frequently than last year.

We are delighted to have renewed the tenancy with Rebecca's osteopathy practice and to recommend a visit.

Bookings from various groups and individuals are at a steady level and we welcome your ideas for events and use of the hall. Please check out the website for further details of events and availability: standishvillage.co.uk

We are planning to hold one or two informal social evenings at the Village Hall to brighten the winter evenings: the first of these will be held on Saturday, February 4th, from 7.30pm onwards. An opportunity to meet neighbours and play some games (not compulsory!) Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Drop in and join us if you can. ■

GERALD HARTLEY 01452 724000

NEXT FOOTPATH WORKING PARTY

Sunday 22nd January 10am

Meet at Crowcomepill by the turning for Black Bridge

We will walk the circuit of paths and bridleways to the West of the B4008 - a relatively flat and easy walk - for about 1.5 hours.

Bring appropriate footwear, gloves and secateurs!

If the weather's bad, contact Sue Oppenheimer on 01453 824212 to confirm whether or not we're going ahead.

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