



# Standish Parish Council

## NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016



## Standish House: *Decision Time*



**Standish House in better times**

In our January newsletter, we reported that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) had entered the second stage of bidding for the Standish House site, meaning that some new-build would be inevitable. For the last couple of months, we have been keenly awaiting news of their decision. We now know that the bidder chosen by the HCA is PJ Livesey, a group with experience of similar developments. (For further information see: [www.pjlivesey-group.co.uk](http://www.pjlivesey-group.co.uk))

This statement by the HCA summarises the bid: "The proposal is for a residential-led scheme designed to restore and enhance the listed buildings on the estate, with new-build housing distributed across the site to enable this.

An early indication from the developer proposes that a total of 125 units will be delivered across the site including 47 refurbished units within the listed and historic buildings (including the iconic ward blocks) and 78 units as enabling new-build development distributed across the site. The new-build houses will provide a good mix of house types and sizes including cottages, houses, town houses, and mews-style properties.

The proposed scheme retains public rights of way across the site, re-establishes the former historic

gardens and maintains and enhances ecological features such as the pond and brook.

The HCA has an aspiration to integrate an element of community use within the scheme and will work with Stroud District Council and the developer to see how this might be included."

As the statement suggests, there is no reference currently to the provision of community facilities but HCA representatives have assured us that they - together with SDC as the planning authority - will keep this under active discussion during the next stage. We understand that the developer's plan is to demolish the nurses' home to facilitate the development of the gardens and green space. We are seeking further information about this.

There will be mixed feelings in the village about the proposed scheme. Recognising this, we have asked for PJ Livesey and HCA to attend a public meeting to explain their proposal and answer residents' questions (see next column for details).

HCA continue to do basic maintenance on the Standish House site - they have agreed a contract for ongoing management of the Japanese knotweed, are cutting back laurel and have plans to relocate the badger sett towards the southern boundary.

Your representatives on the Standish House Partnership Board are **Sue Oppenheimer** and **Sue Hartley**.

**SH**

## Your Local Representatives: *Update*

With only 5 candidates nominated, Standish Parish Council (SPC) didn't have a contest at the May 2016 elections. We have a new member, Robert Kellie, who replaces Drew Montague. Robert introduces himself on Page 2. At Stroud District Council (SDC) level, Standish is now part of the much-enlarged Hardwicke ward. We have 3 District Cllrs: Dave Mossman, Gill Oxley and Tom Skinner. Tom will be the Parish Council's main link for District Council matters but all would be pleased to hear from Standish residents - find their contact details on the SDC website. At County Council, we continue to be represented by Lesley Williams - next County elections are in May 2017.

We hope you will find this latest newsletter informative and welcome your comments on any of the articles. Our contact details are at the end of this newsletter. ■

**SUE HARTLEY**

## Standish House Public Meeting

The public meeting will take place on September 21st, 7.30pm at Standish Village Hall. Come along and find out more about the developer's proposals.

# Multi-User Path from Little Haresfield to Stonehouse

**Our last newsletter** explained that the Parish Council has been working towards providing a multi-user path between Stonehouse, Oxlynch and Little Haresfield for some time. Standish residents identified this as a priority back in 2009 in the Parish Plan, with the aim to provide a safe route for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders.

Over the last six months we have made some progress. Firstly, we have been working very closely with the Mid-Cotswolds Tracks and Trails Group, who represent the local horse-riding community and have a strong mandate from their members to deliver safe riding routes in Standish. Their support has been invaluable.

Secondly, we have succeeded in getting the principle of the multi-user path incorporated into Gloucestershire's Local Transport Plan. This plan, produced by the County Council, sets the long-term strategy for transport delivery within Gloucestershire from 2015 to 2031. Inclusion of the multi-user path shows that the scheme is recognised as fulfilling key criteria and also adds weight to

funding bids. Those funding bids are essential, because the County Council has virtually no budget for delivering their plan!

So we have recently submitted a funding bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund to pay for an in-depth feasibility study, as the next step. This will:

- explore route options alongside or away from the B4008 between Stonehouse and Little Haresfield, to include Oxlynch;
- consult landowners / tenant farmers, Gloucestershire Highways, local residents and other stakeholders, involving them in identifying the most suitable and attractive route(s);
- create a recommended route;
- investigate suitable surface options etc.;
- cost the implementation of the route;
- form the basis for raising the funds needed to take the project forward.

As an additional benefit, it will also look at connecting off-road routes for walkers and riders within Standish and beyond, including

the possibility of connecting the Cotswold Way with the Severn Way via sections of the path, using existing Public Rights of Way and minor roads.

We hope to hear about our bid in the next few weeks and we're keeping our fingers crossed. If we are successful, we will be in touch with all local residents, particularly relevant landowners / tenant farmers, to get your views. ■

**SUE OPPENHEIMER**



## Broadband in Standish

**As no doubt** everyone is aware, most of the Parish has slow and unreliable broadband service.

A pledge by both Government and County Council to improve the speed of rural broadband has - like our broadband - proceeded at snail's pace and some communities have taken it into their own hands to connect to high-speed broadband, with some limited public funding being made available.

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire County Councils have combined forces to form Fastershire with the stated aim - upgrading the Government's commitment to achieve 95% national coverage - to ensure that "everyone in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire will be able to access the broadband services they need by the end of 2018".

To date, progress has been dependent on Openreach, but a number of new initiatives may help us to make progress.

The Parish Council is going to keep an active watching brief on broadband developments locally and will aim to be involved in any new initiatives.

It would help us to have an overall picture of speeds within the Parish and any information you can provide would be gratefully received.

**RK**

## Introducing Our New Parish Councillor



**I am a** widower living in Oxlynch and am semi-retired. I have two sons and a daughter, all of whom now live outside the immediate area.

Formerly, I was commissioned in the Army as a helicopter pilot. Currently, I work part-time in the civil helicopter industry.

We moved to Oxlynch in 1982 as a result of a job change, and have remained here ever since. Our children attended Haresfield Primary School, where my wife helped on a volunteer basis.

Over time, I have been involved in several local issues, including chairing the "Don't Destroy Standish" Action Group against a massive development centred on Standish. I also chaired SCARS, a group aimed at achieving traffic-calming on the B4008.

I am devoted to Standish and hope we can maintain its diverse character. ■

**ROBERT KELLIE**

# Javelin Park Incinerator: Air Quality Monitoring & Other Developments



**A drawing of the planned incinerator**

**Standish Parish Council** has taken the lead in arguing for Urbaser Balfour Beatty (UBB) to fund air monitoring equipment to establish baseline measurements before the incinerator is built at Javelin Park, and to measure air quality for an appropriate period once it is operational. Working with pro bono technical advice, we put together a detailed proposal that has formed the basis for negotiations over the last few

months. We made the case for two types of equipment: one to monitor particulate matter (PM) and the other to monitor Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). The outcome is that 7 sites for the NO<sub>x</sub> tubes, 2 sites for the particulate monitors, together with full costings, have been agreed. A further positive development is that Environmental Health Officers from SDC will undertake the monitoring, with results being made available to all parties.

At a meeting with UBB in June, Javier Peiro for UBB was formally asked to fund the capital and running costs of the monitoring. Mr Peiro indicated that he thought the UBB Board would give their approval. However, he is waiting for detailed proposals about tree screening - requested by Standish and Haresfield Parish

Councils - to be confirmed, so that he can put both requests to his Board at the same time.

Other news is that work on the Javelin Park site will soon be proceeding in earnest, with fencing starting in mid-July and piling in mid-September. We have been informed that there will be 60-70 management staff on site during the build with a temporary 'village' erected to accommodate them. Parish councillors have raised a number of queries about traffic congestion, and UBB have undertaken to visit the site during peak hours to observe the traffic flow, to see if their plans for lorry movements are sufficiently robust.

Be assured that SPC will continue to maintain a watching brief, but if you would like to know more, contact **Sue Hartley** or **Robert Kellie**, your representatives on the Community Liaison Group with UBB. ■

**SH**

## The Ecotricity Stadium for Forest Green Rovers and Business Park



**The eco-park concept design**

**The proposed development** would be situated between the Chipmans Platt roundabout and Junction 13 on the M5, on both sides of the A419. The south side would consist of a 5000-capacity football stadium; a conference centre; a sports centre with full-size athletics track; and a large car park on two levels.

To the north of the A419 there would be 500,000 square feet of

employment land together with car parking. If used for Storage and Distribution, this would create 1000 jobs, but Office use could create up to 4000 jobs in the Business Park. As the Stroud area has lower unemployment than the national average, this could mean people commuting from other areas to fill these jobs. An alternative scenario could mean SDC agreeing to the building of an extra 1500 houses (perhaps in West of Stonehouse), following their policy of reducing traffic movements by having housing and employment in close proximity. Access for the development would be from a new roundabout on the A419, with a dual carriageway with street lighting from the Chipmans Platt roundabout to Junction 13. SDC are waiting for a report from Highways England on the effects of the traffic increase at Junction 13,

and from County Highways on the extra traffic on the A419.

This proposed development is not in the recently approved Local Plan. There will be a review of the Plan in 2019 and, if there is a need for more houses, the proposed extra jobs might be welcomed to reduce traffic movements.

There have been many objections to this scheme: Sport England have said that a need for a sports centre and athletics track has not been established; Natural England are concerned about the stadium floodlighting and street lighting affecting the bats and wildlife around the canal; and the CPRE have objected to such a large development in a rural area. SDC will not be formally discussing this development until the autumn and their opinion may depend on what other plans come along in the meantime. ■

**GRAHAM STEVENS**

## 100 years ago ...

We have rediscovered the minute book of the Parish Council running from 1894-1971 and thought residents might be interested to see the occasional extract in these newsletters.

### March 20th , 1916:

*"The question was brought before the Council of the overflowing of the public footpath near Standish Mills through the drains being stopped leading from the Mill Pond. On the proposition of the Chairman (the Revd. Canon Nash) seconded by Mr Edward Jenner and carried unanimously by the meeting it was resolved that the Clerk be instructed to report same to the District Surveyor as they think this is a case for the District Council."*

### April 18th, 1916:

*" On the proposition of Mr E Ephraim Harris seconded by Mr Henry Neems, Mr Henry Jenner of Standish Moreton Farm and Mr Henry R Saunders of "Devonia" Standish were appointed Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing year."*

SH

## News from Standish Village Hall Committee

**In keeping with tradition,** Standish celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday with a party in the Village Hall. Residents and their families dressed in red, white and blue, with an impromptu "best dressed" award going to Ian Richens for his splendid "Union Jacket" and matching bow tie. The Hall was decorated with the flags of the four Home Nations – with those of St. Patrick and St. David baffling a few of the guests. Also featured were several Commonwealth Nations flags, including The Stars and Stripes (representing a former colony!). After a splendid 3-course buffet, the party sang patriotic songs including, of course, the National Anthem. Dancing continued into the night to end a memorable evening.



**Villagers celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday ...**



### **... and enjoy jazz on a summer evening**

In balmy July weather, your Committee organised a musical evening in the garden of Den and Ruth Smith - jazz and standards provided by Cotswold Big Band (including local trumpeter and SVH Treasurer, Gerald Hartley). The evening was a great success, enjoyed by some 70 residents, families and friends. Thanks to Den and Ruth and the small band of helpers whose hard work helped make the event go with a swing.

Don't forget: we welcome suggestions for regular or one-off social events and are happy to support anyone wishing to organise an event for the village. It's your Village Hall and we hope you will use it.

**JOHN SIMONETT 01453 828568**

## Neighbourhood Development Plan

The process to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan has stalled and we are still struggling to find sufficient volunteers to help produce this plan for Standish. A completed plan would be beneficial in a number of ways: it would provide some protection against future development; it would increase our access to funding from developments in our area and from other sources; and it would increase our credibility. We will make one last attempt to convene a meeting in September. In the meantime, if you would be prepared to help, please contact Sue Oppenheimer at [sueoppenheimer@gmail.com](mailto:sueoppenheimer@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you! **so**

## MEET YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS



**GRAHAM STEVENS**  
CHAIR

01453 825332



**SUE HARTLEY**  
VICE-CHAIR

01452 724000  
[suehartley@outlook.com](mailto:suehartley@outlook.com)



**STANLEY DICKER**

01453 826918



**ROBERT KELLIE**

01453 821307  
[robert@rdkempriase.co.uk](mailto:robert@rdkempriase.co.uk)



**SUE OPPENHEIMER**

01453 824212  
[sueoppenheimer@gmail.com](mailto:sueoppenheimer@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.community.stroud.gov.uk/default.asp?pid=34](http://www.community.stroud.gov.uk/default.asp?pid=34)  
**CLERK:** [Jo Barber clerkatstandishpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Jo.Barber.clerkatstandishpc@hotmail.co.uk)

Design & Print by [Qwertyop.co.uk](http://Qwertyop.co.uk) | Printed on 100% recycled paper