



Standish Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020-21



Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Progresses

When I wrote about the NDP for the summer newsletter, the consultation on its contents with Standish residents and statutory bodies was underway. I am delighted to report that we received 34 responses from residents. Bearing in mind that many of these were written jointly by two (or maybe more) members of a household, this was an excellent response rate and well above our planning consultant's expectation of 10-20. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is truly grateful to all who took the time to read and respond, feeling that this endorses the many hours of work put into developing the Plan. A number of changes have been made to the draft plan in light of the many constructive comments received.

Readers may remember that the draft NDP identifies a site in Standish for possible future development. This is Stagholt Farm, which is being put forward because – if the development at site PS19a (west of the railway line, between Black Bridge and Pidgemore Farm) in the draft Local Plan goes ahead - it will be surrounded by 650 houses in addition to the existing development at Great

Oldbury. Because we are putting forward a site, we were required by Stroud District Council (SDC) to initiate two specialist studies – an Environmental Regulations Assessment and a Habitat Regulations Assessment. We are pleased to report that both of these reports are now at draft stage and have gone to the relevant statutory consultees for comment. Once finalised following receipt of these reports, the NDP will be redrafted again and submitted to SDC for a further mandatory consultation phase (it will also be published on the village website, so that you can see the amendments). This is Step 7 of the NDP process.

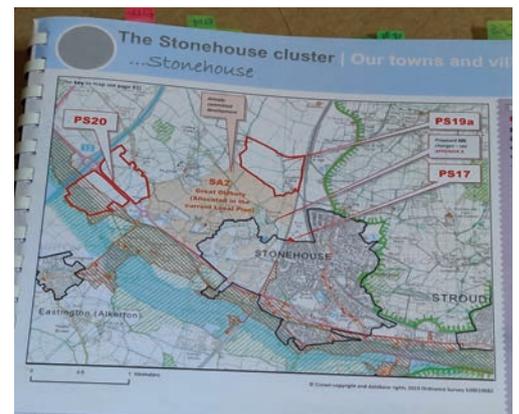
To remind you, the future stages are:

- STEP 8: SDC organises and pays for an examination of the NDP.
- STEP 9: SDC organises and pays for a referendum of Standish residents. If more than 50% of those voting vote 'yes' for the NDP then it becomes a statutory planning document - one that communities will use to support or challenge planning applications.
- STEP 10: The NDP is 'made' by SDC.

As I write, I'm aware that this all seems rather 'dry' and arcane, but we need to

remind ourselves that an NDP is the means to give some protection against excessive development and also some say about what happens in our village. Already, as a draft document, the NDP has enabled the Parish Council to comment authoritatively on two applications relating to Great Oldbury and PS19a and has helped us evidence our comments on Stroud's Local Plan Review: Additional Housing Options (see next article).

SUE HARTLEY



Map showing the site of PS19a

Stroud Local Plan Review: Additional Housing Options

In August 2020, the Government published a White Paper proposing changes to the algorithm used to establish the minimum housing requirement for each local authority area in the country. This revised calculation method proposed increasing the requirement for Stroud District from the level set out in the 2019 Draft Local Plan of 638 homes per annum, to 786 homes per annum – a possible additional 1,050-2,400 homes between now and 2040. SDC started to consider where this housing might go and, in late November, published a consultation document on the options. These included intensification on sites already identified

in the draft Local Plan; various levels of dispersal; and additional growth points. Faced with the possibility of intensification of housing at the already-identified site in Standish and with two of the identified growth points being at Whitminster and Moreton Valence, Parish Councillors attended a webinar to inform ourselves and enlisted the services of our NDP consultant, Andrea Pellegram, to help us draft a response. With her help, we have been able to put forward a sound planning argument against intensification and major growth points in the Severn Vale. Some of us wrote, as individuals, to the local MP to argue against the calculation method set

out in the Government's White Paper. In the last few days, we have heard from reliable sources that the proposed Government algorithm has been adjusted. This is welcome news, but the Parish Council will need to keep abreast of developments on this at national and district level, and will do its best to respond accordingly.

Stroud District Council's consultation document can be viewed at <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1287256/additional-housing-options-consultation-paper>

SH

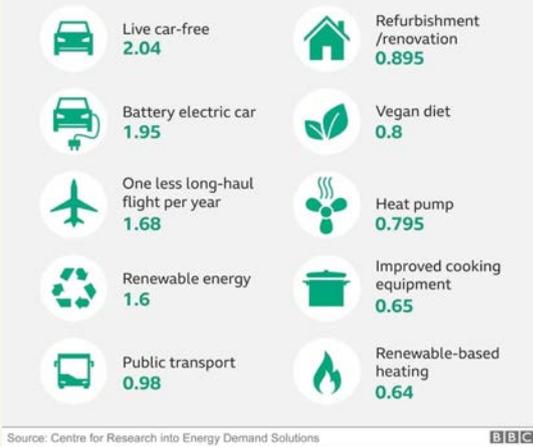
Climate Emergency Action in Standish and the Local Area

Carbon dioxide (CO2) warms the Earth like a blanket; without drastic action, after 2030 there will be so much that it will be impossible to prevent runaway global warming. A series of climate feedback loops will push Earth towards becoming like the Sahara Desert. David Attenborough has called this “the collapse of human civilisation”. There is a lot going on in our area to support efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

The **Stonehouse Climate Action** site, which you can view on Facebook, is definitely worth a look. Recently, they shared information about top options for reducing your carbon footprint as a New Year’s Resolution.

Top options for reducing your carbon footprint

Average reduction per person per year in tonnes of CO2 equivalent



Stonehouse Climate Action Fayre: Last year’s successful event is to be repeated in February 2021 on Zoom. Information about reducing carbon emissions and retrofitting homes will be available. We will post further information on the village website, as it becomes available.

Transition Stroud hosts a regular Climate Action Forum, which I attend on behalf of the Parish Council. The February meeting will be discussing the development of a Gloucestershire food strategy, looking at how local food production can address climate change,

and transition from conventional to regenerative agriculture.

Here are some actions that we can take as individuals to reduce CO2 emissions:

- **Calculate our Carbon Footprint:** The website <https://carbonsawy.uk/action> has a Carbon Footprint Calculator and information to help us see the most effective things we can do to improve our quality of life while reducing our carbon footprint, based on a UK average footprint of 15 tonnes a year.
- **Reduce energy loss from our homes** by making energy-efficient improvements. The Government Green Homes Grant scheme www.gov.uk/apply-green-homes-grant runs until 2022 and enables homeowners and landlords to apply for a voucher towards the costs of retrofitting. <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk> provides a tool to enable people to: check if they are eligible for a voucher; check what improvements may be suitable for their home; choose which improvements they would like and see an estimate of how much they may cost; and find accredited tradespeople to get quotes to carry out the work. In addition to using this online tool, homeowners are well advised to commission a retrofit survey to provide a specification for obtaining quotes.
- **Photovoltaic panel installation:** Discussions are ongoing with local installers about the potential for developing a local scheme for domestic PV panel installation. This scheme may reduce costs due to the scale of purchases in a locality.
- **Diet:** This site has a lot of useful information including the carbon footprint of your diet: www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52719662
- **Share and Repair** in Stonehouse can help to save your broken items. Volunteers share their skills and repair items to save them from landfill. repairs@shareandrepairstonehouse.com
- **Reusable nappies:** For young parents who want these for their babies, vouchers are available via www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reusable-nappies

ALISON WIDGERY

Wild Flower Area

As part of its action on climate change, the Parish Council agreed to fund the creation of a small wildflower patch on the Village Green (near the church and village hall).

Terry Hefferman and his assistant, Scott, cleared and dug the patch and we have sown yellow rattle seeds. Yellow rattle is parasitical on grasses and so weakens them, giving wildflowers a chance to compete and gradually establish themselves. This is the key to success with any wildflower meadow. Unfortunately half of the patch was recently flooded so some seeds may have been washed away. We will re-seed.

Later in the year we will sow native wildflower seeds and also put in some native plug plants to speed things along. Hopefully, we will soon have an attractive, species rich area that will support a wide variety of insects and other invertebrates (including butterflies, bees, spiders and millipedes), birds and mammals.

The twentieth century unfortunately saw a sharp decrease in the variety of wildflowers in the UK countryside. This was due to changes in agricultural policy and practice,

particularly increased field drainage and herbicide use, and the growth of urban sprawl. Recreating species rich meadows – even in small spaces – can help redress the balance and can help support a rich biodiversity in Standish.

We hope to be able to create some more wildflower patches in the village to support even more habitats. If you can suggest any areas or would like to help, please contact me.

If you would like to try this in your garden here is a link that might be useful!

[Mini-meadow FINAL.docx](#)
(magnificentmeadows.org.uk)

AW



Yellow rattle



Terry and Scott clear the wildflower area

Remembrance Sunday 2020 at St Nicholas Church

When enhanced Covid restrictions came into force on November 5th, there were concerns that the Remembrance event would be severely curtailed. Fortunately, local councils were given powers to hold reduced outdoor events and the Parish Council was pleased to work with Stephen and Lynn Harrison of the Parochial Church Council to organise the wreath laying, together with Last Post and Reveille, ably played on the cornet by Gerald Hartley. Over 20 local people attended, socially distanced in our large churchyard. In current circumstances, it was a particularly poignant and meaningful event for all who came. **SH**



Wreath laying and Last Post in the churchyard

A Visit to Standish House



A muddy visit to Standish House (with Ed Lister)

On a gloriously sunny day in early November, parish councillors were invited to visit the site to view the progress made so far. We were met at the Gatehouse by Ed Lister of Planit. Ed is managing the landscaping and care of the Standish House grounds. He has taken a lease on the Gatehouse and is in the process of creating a workbase there for his landscaping company, to serve the South of the country. This will include facilities for working, meetings and training. A cafe is being created and the public will have some access to this, details still to be worked out. The eco-renovation and extension of the Gatehouse includes features to reflect its history, and a well is being reinstated. Clad in wellington boots, we walked on up to the (very muddy) Standish House site. It has been cleared of much undergrowth and the beauty of the arboretum trees is becoming evident. The pond area has been cleared to reveal the natural fountain working. The houses on the Westridge site were well on the way to being completed and have a wonderful view over the valley. As we approached Standish House we watched workmen painstakingly repairing the chimneys. We walked on past the Coach House and nurses quarters to see heavy machinery at work towards the top of the site. There was still a lot to be done. Whilst we may regret the volume of housing, there is some satisfaction in seeing this beautiful site being restored and brought back into use. **JACKIE KNIGHTS**

Broadband Update



It is now more than a year since most of the parish has had superfast broadband available. However, there have been some omissions and some of these seem to be ongoing.

After quite a substantial delay, the cable was extended to Standish Court late in 2020.

We had received a forecast that the cable would be extended to Arlebrook and South Oxlynch into the Standish House development by Christmas 2020. To date, nothing appears to have happened in this respect. Gigaclear appears to have an ongoing problem in keeping to any schedule and hence are reluctant to forecast when they expect to complete any works.

The other problem, still unresolved, is that properties not listed as residential in 2015 were not included in the scheme to give everyone access to superfast broadband. There is an inconsistency whereby residents of one property have been told it is not economically viable to provide a connection even though the cable runs right past the premises, whilst another new conversion has been offered a connection. Our local MP has been asked to help with this anomaly but, to date, we have not had a reply.

The Parish Council will continue to apply pressure and any relevant information from residents would be very welcome.

ROBERT KELLIE

Lorries on the B4008

Little Haresfield resident, Juliet Bailey, writes:

Perhaps I've noticed it because I've spent more time at home this last year, but there seem to be quite a few lorries on the B4008 these days, especially bin lorries and those from the Muller factory. I mentioned the bin lorries to Sue Hartley who raised the issue with Urbaser, the incinerator operators. Because I was able to give the precise moment when a certain vehicle went past my house, and thus when it arrived at the plant, they were able to identify the lorry and, amazingly, took immediate action.

The weight limit is 7.5 tonnes from Javelin Park to the Horsetrough roundabout. Above that weight, lorries should use

Junction13 and the A419. 7.5 tonnes really is quite small; it would be about the size of the smallest removals van.

Apparently, there are certain bin lorry movements that are permitted, obviously when they are picking up our refuse, but also coming from certain parts of Stonehouse. The times when they are allowed will vary occasionally, for example around Bank Holidays.

I am planning to do a survey over the coming months, gathering timed data. I'll probably sit near my gate with a camera for an hour or so snapping any lorry that goes past. I've been advised that this isn't suitable to be a Parish Council-organised event because of safety and insurance concerns, but the Council would be happy to review any of the findings, passing on details to both the Highways Authority and Urbaser.

If you would like to help with the survey, perhaps at other key points on the B4008, please contact me at jabailey99@gmail.com

Lucy Wilding



**REGISTERED
OSTEOPATH**

*Available all day Thursday
& Saturday morning at
Standish Village Hall*

**07966 534416
info@lwosteopathy.co.uk**

Horsemarling Lane Ditches and Verges

Horsemarling Lane residents will be well aware of the installation of the gas pipe for the Standish House development. This went on through the summer and was expected to be finished before Christmas. Disruption was inevitable as traffic control had to be in place for some areas. The northern verge was reinstated but, during the works, much of the drainage ditch became blocked by clay and debris. The Parish Council approached the developers who met with the sub-contractors; the ditches were cleared. With the heavy rainfall in December, we then experienced flooding at Horsemarling roundabout, due to a blocked drainage pipe. Attempts were made to clear the pipe, but the deluge of rain Christmas week caused further flooding. Unfortunately, we understand that one of the new Stagholt houses was subject to flooding. This was dealt with as an emergency. County Highways visited the following day to review the situation and have now taken action to improve the Horsemarling drainage.

JK



Horsemarling Lane ditch overflows, early December

Safe & Sustainable Travel in Standish

The Safe and Sustainable Travel in Standish Group continues to work on the two schemes referenced in the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan's Sustainable Transport Policy.

The scheme for a multi-user track from Horsemarling roundabout to Black Bridge has been the subject of a preliminary feasibility study. We were able to fund this with generous support from our County Councillor's Highways Local Initiative Fund and from the British Horse Society. We believe that this track could form the first 'built' stage of a strategic cycleway (also available for walkers, horse riders and those using mobility aids) from edge of Stonehouse to junction 12 of the M5 and on to Cross Keys roundabout. This would fit with the Government's and County Council's commitment to improving opportunities for non-motorised travel, particularly getting to work by bike. We continue our discussions with the County Council and others about both schemes. In November, Sue Hartley was invited to outline our proposals at an online "Cycling Summit" organised by Stroud MP Siobhan Baillie, and attended by Chris Heaton-Harris MP, Minister for walking and cycling.

SH

Standish Village Hall News

The Village Hall has seen greatly reduced usage since March due to Covid restrictions. It is currently closed for all social events and non-essential activities, though some permissible essential training by our tenant ERFA and the charity Hft is still taking place, under strict Covid protocols. The lockdown has allowed some maintenance work to be undertaken without causing disruption to users. The secondary glazing installed earlier in the year has improved the energy efficiency of the Hall and makes heating the rooms easier and more efficient. Our water supply has been successfully switched from the now defunct Standish water supply to Severn Trent. Working with the Parish Council, a new noticeboard has been installed on the side of the building, replacing the old leaky one. Like everyone, we are now looking forward to the rollout of the vaccine and the return to normality that we have all been waiting for!

JOHN SIMONETT

**The Parish Council sends best wishes to Standish residents at this difficult time.
Please get in touch with any of us if we can help you, or signpost you to services.**

MEET THE COUNCILLORS



SUE HARTLEY
CHAIR

01452 724000
suehartley@outlook.com



ROBERT KELLIE
VICE-CHAIR

01453 821307
robert@rdkemprise.co.uk



MICHAEL JENKINS

07868338057
michaeljenkinsSPC@gmail.com



JACKIE KNIGHTS

01453 823477
jacksons@hotmail.co.uk



ALISON WIDGERY

01453 828554
ajwidgery1@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.standishvillage.co.uk
CLERK: clerkatstandishpc@hotmail.co.uk

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