



Standish Parish Council



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021/22

Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan Moves Ahead

It is a joy (and a relief) to be able to report that our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is moving towards the final stages of the process. Those of you who are following its progress will remember that we had to rerun the consultation process in summer 2021, due to a precedent set in another part of the country. Following a further set of revisions arising out of the second consultation, the draft NDP was submitted to Stroud District Council (SDC) in November. Having satisfied itself that our draft NDP complied with all the relevant statutory requirements, SDC commenced its own 6-week consultation phase. This ended on January 7th 2022. District Council officers will now compile the comments they have received and the NDP will go to an independent examiner. In our case, this will be Rosemary Kidd, an experienced examiner, who has examined over 50 NDPs and – importantly for us – has also supported a number of communities in developing neighbourhood plans. The role of the independent examiner is “to test whether or not a draft neighbourhood

plan or Order meets the basic conditions, and other matters set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).” * Once Ms Kidd has completed her report with recommendations, it will come back to the Parish Council and to SDC. A provisional date for SDC’s Environment Committee to consider the NDP and the examiner’s recommendations has been set for March 31st.

If all goes well, we will then progress to a referendum of Standish residents. This is organised and paid for by SDC. If more than 50% of those voting vote ‘yes’ for the NDP then it will become a statutory planning document - one that we can use to support or challenge planning applications in the parish. This is so important for our rural parish, which the Parish Council regards as ‘a green lung’ between Stonehouse and encroaching development moving southward from Gloucester. We are sure that the whole community wants to protect its special identity far into the future.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning*

SUE HARTLEY

A Valued Parish Councillor Resigns . . .

We are sorry to announce that Michael Jenkins has resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. A member since summer 2019, Michael was a conscientious and active councillor, in recent times taking the lead on organising the feasibility study for the multi-user path project and on our response to the Symmetry Park development. His insurance knowledge and expertise were put to use in reviewing our assets and organising our insurance. He was also a great support to members of the PC less adept with the latest IT, Zoom meetings etc.

Thank you for your service, Michael. You will be missed.

. . . And Creates a Vacancy

Michael’s resignation means there is a co-option opportunity for anyone interested in joining the Parish Council, assisting with our current work and bringing new ideas. If you would like to have an informal chat about what being a parish councillor involves, please contact the Clerk, Sue Hartley or any of the current parish councillors, who will be happy to provide more information about what the role involves. See page 4 for contact details. **SH**

Safe and Sustainable Travel: Multi-User Path Project, Horsemarling roundabout to Black Bridge

In the last newsletter, we told readers about the presentation produced by the Safe and Sustainable Travel in Standish Group as part of the effort to persuade the County Council to allow our proposed multi-user path to run along the field edge ‘behind the hedge’. In spite of widespread support from a variety of sources including our MP, District Council and a range of interested organisations and individuals, it was proving difficult to make headway. Then, in September, following some positive lobbying by our County Councillor, Nick Housden, and an opportunity for me to address the Chair of the County Council at the MP’s Cycling Summit, we received permission to carry out a full feasibility study including the field edge. Some detailed planning followed and we now expect the feasibility study to be completed in the next month or so. The study will be financed with a substantial grant from the Urbaser Community Fund and money put aside in the Parish Council’s budget over the last two years. This is a significant step towards the community’s aspiration for safer walking and cycling in the parish, first recorded in the Parish Plan of 2007 and confirmed since in the Safe and Sustainable Travel Study of 2017 and, most recently, in the draft NDP consultation.

The presentation is still available to view at [Standish-Multi-User-Path-10-6-2021.pdf](https://www.standishparishcouncil.gov.uk/Standish-Multi-User-Path-10-6-2021.pdf) (standishvillage.co.uk). Please do have a look if you haven’t done so already. **SH**



Keeping Standish Tidy

One of the most frequent but least pleasant tasks undertaken by our handyperson, Terry Hefferman, is litter picking. I'm sure that all residents will be aware of the extent of the problem in our parish, as elsewhere, and Terry does a heroic job keeping things as clean and tidy as possible. A few local residents are also out and about, picking up rubbish in their own patches, and all efforts are appreciated. Where larger bags of rubbish or individual items (tyres, TVs, white goods) are fly tipped, residents are advised to contact our Neighbourhood Warden at SDC, who will arrange for items to be collected. Currently, the warden for Standish is Simon Jarvis, tel 07753 725185 or email simon.jarvis@stroud.gov.uk



A recent litter pick by Terry

Importantly, where the wardens collect bags of rubbish, they check to see if there is identifying information and, if there is, this is followed up. In January, three bags of rubbish were left on a narrow section of Standish Lane. Several documents in the rubbish contained a name and address. The person concerned will be interviewed by SDC officers and it is hoped that this will lead to a prosecution. **SH**

A New Clerk for Standish



Following a lengthy period without a clerk, the Parish Council has been very pleased to welcome Elizabeth Oakley to this position. Elizabeth introduces herself here: "I joined Standish Parish Council as clerk in November 2021, having previously worked in local government since 2014. Prior to that, I had experience in varying sectors including publishing, media, art, design, and photography. I love rural parishes in the Cotswolds and enjoy helping communities develop as well as maintain the best of their countryside and heritage. I look forward to meeting members of the Standish community."

Planning Application for Symmetry Park, Haresfield: the Parish Council Prepares its Objections

In 2021, the Parish Council learnt of a planning application coming forward for land named the 'Javelin Park extension site' in the emerging Stroud Local Plan and identified for employment use. The planning application - S.21/2579/OUT - and now referred to as Symmetry Park, has recently been submitted and can be viewed on the SDC planning portal. The Parish Council, together with a number of Standish residents, is very concerned at the size and scale of the proposed plans for a distribution and energy centre, together with its impact on the road network. We made a pre-application submission, expressing concern about the impact on Standish's historic environment and the natural environment (including the Standish Airfield Meadow). We also made clear our concerns about the impact on the B4008 and Junction 12, given that 1,300 jobs (and therefore, we may assume, a huge increase in car and lorry journeys) are proposed for the site. The largest units will be 34 metres in height. If this is difficult to envisage, it might help to know that the tallest buildings on the St Modwen's site are 15 metres - less than half the height - yet even these buildings have a significant impact on the landscape and character of the rural fringe of Gloucester. The proposed Symmetry Park buildings would certainly have a visual impact on the historic centre of Standish.



The Symmetry Park site

The Parish Council is currently working on more detailed objections to the Symmetry Park planning application. In addition to the issues mentioned in the previous paragraph, it is anticipated that there will be comments about 24 hour usage and lighting, noise and air pollution.

We have been in contact with neighbouring parish councils. Our concerns about the impact on the historical and natural environment are shared by Haresfield. Hardwicke and Hunts Grove are primarily concerned with the highway/traffic issues. In recent months, and supported by our District Councillor, Mark Ryder, Standish Parish Council has taken a leading role in organising a coordinated response on the highways issues. We have identified a consultant to produce a report on the transport impacts of the proposed development and commissioned the report on behalf of the four parish councils, which will share costs. This report is due to be completed by the end of January and will give detail and weight to this element of our response to the planning application. **SH**

Lucy Wilding



**REGISTERED
OSTEOPATH**

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

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

Climate Emergency

Having declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, Standish Parish Council has been working to support local efforts to become Carbon Neutral. Its work on the NDP and multi-user path project are also motivated in part by the imperative to reduce carbon emissions.

We have been hoping to form an interest group in Standish to develop ways in which we can work together on the climate emergency, but the Covid situation has made this difficult. If you are interested (thank you to those who have already shown interest), I would be delighted to hear from you and we could set up Zoom sessions to discuss ways forward.

I attend various local groups (via Zoom) which are supporting the Carbon Neutral aim, looking at encouraging local businesses and households to do small things that together could make a big difference.

Second Climate Fayre

The Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum (SCCAF) is planning a second Climate Fayre on Sunday 3rd April, 11am-3pm at the Stonehouse Community Centre, Laburnum Walk GL10 2NR. Severn Wye Environmental Agency and various other environmental groups will be represented and able to advise on a wide variety of climate friendly initiatives e.g. solar energy, EVs, home retrofitting insulation etc. The last SCCAF Climate Fayre was very well received and attended by many local people. There will be refreshments!!



Retrofitted house on Standish Lane

Standish Wildflower Patches

In Standish, we have continued to tend our wildflower patches. These can be found on the village green (by the Village Hall), in the church yard and on the verge of the B4008 by the Arboricultural Association Centre. They are helping to encourage the vital pollinators needed to support our food producers and encourage our biodiversity.

The patches were quite productive in the summer but they will take a while to develop and get established. We hope they will flourish even more in 2022, and we would like to establish some more patches. Let me know where you would like them! We gathered some seed from the flowers that we will scatter in new beds in the spring. Recently we have added some cowslip plants that have been grown from seed.

Did you know that there are male and female cowslip flowers? In healthy cowslip populations, there are equal numbers of both types of flower. However, this 50:50 ratio becomes imbalanced when the cowslip population declines, due to loss of habitat or if there is a change in agricultural practices.



Some lovely local cowslips



Male flower



Female flower

Climate Action Network (CAN): The next online meeting of the CAN is on Mon 24th January, 19.00-20.45pm, when Stuart Melvin from the Grassroots Development Coordination team at Friends of the Earth will talk about how groups can work towards Carbon neutrality. Contact fbarker@gn.apc.org if you would like to attend.

Climate Action Contacts and Information:

Transition Stroud's 2022 Newsletter is full of eco-friendly resolutions for 2022. (<https://transitionstroud.org>)

Edible Stroud is looking for volunteers to help with its community gardening projects.

Stroud Community Seed Bank has a catalogue for you to choose local seeds.

Stroud Potato Day: This popular annual event will be held on Saturday, 5th February, 8.30am to 2pm, at Stroud Farmers' Market. There will be 19 varieties of seed potatoes for sale and you can buy one potato or lots! Further information can be found at <https://www.downtoearthstroud.co.uk>

Stroudco is a useful local shopping initiative, a not-for-profit online grocer, connecting with local suppliers and ethical producers to offer quality products and sustainable alternatives. Groceries available include beans, pulses, nuts, seeds, dried fruits, grain, flour, pasta, tea, coffee, dairy, fresh vegetables and fruit and sweet and savoury treats! They deliver to GL10 3 area. Find out more at <https://www.stroudco.org.uk>

Retro fitting: If we are to successfully decarbonise homes, then retrofitting existing properties is where the real challenge is. We need to increase their energy efficiency, change their gas or oil heating system for a low carbon heat system and generate more renewable energy on their roofs.

Any temperature increase above 1.5 C would trigger far worse effects than previously thought, in terms of drought, flood, poverty for many and catastrophic biodiversity loss. The Forest of Dean, Cotswold and W. Oxfordshire District councils have put together a Net-Zero Toolkit - an easy-to-follow guide for new builds but also for existing homes. It covers such topics as retrofitting and conservation, extensions, replacing windows, solar panels, heat pumps, domestic hot water and staged retrofitting. www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/2ddb125k/net-zero-carbon-toolkit.pdf

ALISON WIDGERY

News in Brief

“Standish Consort” University of Oxford Alumni Network Gloucestershire Branch



A group of singers is rehearsing in St Nicholas Church, Standish in preparation for a concert in the church on 2nd April at 7.30pm. The Musical Director is Mark Wilson. The choir are performing The Lamentations of Jeremiah by Thomas Tallis, The Crucifixion by John Stainer and “Portraits” composed by Oxford alumnus and choir member, Tom Chevis. For more information and tickets phone Sam Tolley (Chair) on 07773 714784 or email gloucestershire@ousoc.oxon.org

Urbaser Community Fund: In 2021, Standish Village Hall received funding for redecorations and the Parochial Church Council towards rebuilding the churchyard wall from the Community Fund. The annual £25,000 Fund will be open for the 4th round of applications from March to June 2022. Details concerning eligibility and how to apply can be found at <https://www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk/community-fund>

Information boards for Standish House (now Green Walk): Parish Councillors have been working with the developer to produce a number of boards providing key information about the site. These will feature its history and occupants (including details about Beatrice Webb and the hospital), specimen trees and wildlife. It is hoped that the boards will help to give the new residents and visitors a sense of the heritage and diversity to be found in this important place.

Flooding at Horsemarling

Stonehouse Town Council has been taking the initiative with regard to the flooding that occurred at the roundabout and into Stagholt last winter. Both the County and District Councils along with the Stagholt developers, Two Rivers, have been asked to investigate the issue. The County Council has sent a camera down the pipe passing under the roundabout. This has shown that the pipe starts as a 9 inch pipe but then, part way along, downstream, it reduces to a 4 inch pipe. This may well be a causal factor but remedial action has not yet been agreed. **ROBERT KELLIE**

News from Standish Village Hall

The Village Hall has seen a reduced number of social events due to Covid restrictions, though it has continued to be used for training courses by our tenant ERFA and other local organisations.

The Village Hall Committee have been active in maintaining the fabric of the building during this quiet period and has successfully applied for a grant towards a complete redecoration of the Hall. In the coming year, we are planning an upgrade of the toilets. A new flagpole was installed in September and so we can once again celebrate national and local occasions by flying the relevant flags.

We would like to wish our Chairman, Nigel Mattfield, a speedy recovery from his recent health issues and trust it will not be long before he is back in his rightful place steering the Committee which looks after the Hall for the benefit of everyone in the local community. Why not plan to use a high class venue on your doorstep for your own event?

Visit www.standishvillage.co.uk for details!

JOHN SIMONETT



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