



Standish Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

Standish House site, now Green Walk

At the time of writing, 39 properties on the site are occupied. We welcome these new residents to the village and were pleased to meet two of them at the Annual Parish Meeting in June.

As the developers have cleared the site and got to understand the topography in more detail, they have submitted some changes to the original plans. They propose to reduce the number of new-build properties on the site from 99 to 88, and the units in the converted buildings from 48 to 46. In July, Robert Kellie and I visited the site to view progress, along with the proposed changes. We were pleased to hear of a change in layout to reduce the visual impact of the site, a group of trees being saved, and a change of road route being identified to avoid risk of any disruption to the cork oak. The detailed plans can be viewed on Stroud District Council's planning portal, ref S.22/1317/VAR.

Following concerns last summer when a raised pedestrian pavement looked set to go ahead on Horsemarling Lane instead of a multi-user path, the Parish Council convened a site meeting of all the interested parties, which has led, in due course, to a revised proposal. These plans can also be viewed on the reference above. We have been working with the developer on the content for a number of information boards to be erected around the site, drawing attention to the history and particular environmental features, including the specimen trees. The first of these have been erected, though it has been agreed that the design of the boards should be changed, to fit more sympathetically with the landscape.

A temporary bridleway route through the site may soon be opened and the developers have agreed to discuss arrangements for the access at the top of the site with the Parish Council in the near future.



Green Walk visit to review latest plans (with Richard Wilshaw of PJ Livesey)

Thoughts are now turning to planning the natural play area on the site, requested some years ago by the Parish Council. This will be a valuable amenity, available for public use.

SUE HARTLEY

Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): a Further Delay

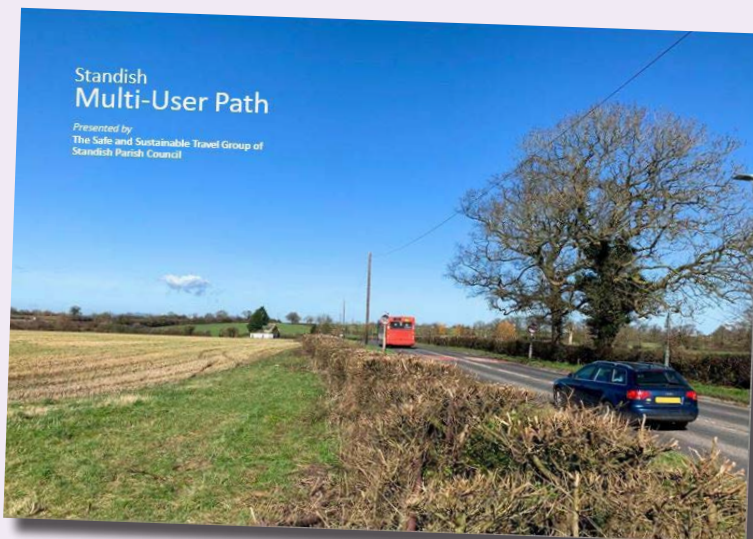
-When I wrote about the NDP in the winter newsletter, we were steaming ahead with the external examination phase. Unfortunately, the examiner, Rosemary Kidd, found fault with various aspects of the NDP, requiring us to go back and make a number of changes. Her detailed report can be viewed at <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/neighbourhood-planning/emerging-neighbourhood-plans/standish-parish-council-plan/standish-regulation-17>

This was something of a shock for the Parish Council (and the District Council, which had supported the NDP going forward to examination) but, together with our consultant, Andrea Pellegram, we have picked ourselves up and got on with the work needed to get this right for the parish. We have secured the funding for the additional consultancy work from national sources, without having to dip into Parish Council funds, and are now at the stage where we have a new draft of the plan. This has been submitted to District Council planners, who have agreed to perform the 'critical friend' function which was missing last time round, before we submit again to external examination

In spite of the high workload and frustrations it has involved, the Parish Council continues to believe that the NDP is the means to give some protection against excessive development and to have some say about what happens in our village. With a site for 700 houses allocated in Standish in Stroud's emerging Local Plan, this is not an academic point. The NDP, once approved, will enable the Parish Council and the community to have some influence on how the site is developed in a number of positive ways, with environmental benefits. **SH**

Multi User Path: Moving Forward!

Work has continued on the Parish Council's scheme for a multi-user path from Horsemarling roundabout to Black Bridge. A Preliminary Ecological Assessment Survey has been completed recently. Together with the Topographical & Drainage Survey carried out earlier in the year, this will enable our consultants, Transport Planning Associates, to complete the detailed design drawings for the path. Stroud District Council has approved the project for the use of Section 106 monies arising from the Standish Gate development. More than half the costs of the feasibility work have been met by a grant from the Urbaser Community Fund and Community Infrastructure Levy payment. Once all the feasibility work is completed, the Parish Council will hold further talks with the County Council on the detail of how to proceed with the plans.



Details of the Multi User Path Project can be found at [Standish-Multi-User-Path-10-6-2021.pdf](#) (standishvillage.co.uk)

The County Council is currently consulting on its draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). It shows a cycle/walking route being provided along the B4008 and we envisage that our path will become part of this. Please visit GCC's News page to complete the survey and support this route. The consultation runs until 19th August. **SH**

A New Parish Councillor for Standish



In April 2022, the Parish Council welcomed Oliver Kirkham, who has filled the vacancy created when Michael Jenkins moved away from the parish in November, 2021. Oliver has lived in Standish since 2018, having formerly lived in Stroud since 2009. He has a background in infrastructure development in the UK, specifically energy and transport, after initially starting out in commercial property. He has also worked on environmental impact assessment for schemes, most recently being involved with the A417 at Birdlip. Oliver enjoys bringing up his family in Standish and exploring the area.

Since joining the Council, Oliver has taken on the maintenance of its benches and will look to assist with the multi-user path where possible alongside taking a keen interest in flood alleviation and the effects of climate change within the parish. He is a resident of Standish Court and serves as a member of the Standish Village Hall Management Committee.

Contact details for Oliver appear at the end of the newsletter.

Shop Local

For members of the parish who may not be aware, we thought it worth mentioning local farmers from whom you can buy produce: Jonathan Crump, Standish Park Farm, produces renowned Single and Double Gloucester Cheese. Contact: 07825254472.

John Percival, Horsemarling Farm, a self-service milk machine, bring your own bottle. Cash or card. Also, on Tuesdays between 10:00 – 11:00 am, a mini-market of Artisan Bread and Fresh Fish.

Beth's Eggs, New House Farm, Standish Lane, fresh eggs. Also bric-a-brac sales in aid of parish church funds. **ROBERT KELLIE**

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

With a temperature of 37°C in Standish, a record temperature for Wales of 37.1°C in Flintshire on 18th July 2022, and a record temperature of 40.2°C at London Heathrow on 19th July - you won't need me or the Met Office to remind you that 'Climate change is already having visible effects on our world'.

Many of the changes linked to the Climate Emergency are already apparent in Stroud District. Consistent with various effects described in the latest Met Office 'State of the UK Climate' report, we have seen dried-up landscapes and water shortages here.

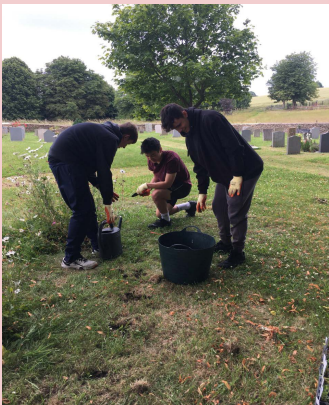
So what can we do?? As individuals we can do small things that will help. We can better insulate our homes; eat more local, organic food and less animal products; compost left-over food; buy less "stuff" with less packaging; wash clothes at lower temperatures; and buy only energy-efficient appliances. It's clearer than ever that we need to move away from our reliance on fossil fuels - to help tackle climate change, increase energy security and drive down costs. **Would you consider installing solar PV panels on your roof?** If so, there is a climate action group, based in Chalford, which has organised a bulk discount for local residents. If you would like to know more about this, let me know and I can set up a Zoom meeting with the co-ordinator, Dr Richard Dean. He is keen to spread the benefits in the Stroud area.

ALISON WIDGERY



PV Panels on a Standish roof

Wildflower/biodiversity areas in Standish



Students planting wildflower plugs in Standish churchyard

'Insect pollination helps to provide one in every three mouthfuls of our food...' '8 out of 10 wild plants in Britain depend on insect pollination...'

'Britain has lost 97% of its flower-rich grassland since the 1940's...'

Headlines like these have stimulated pollinator recovery efforts worldwide, including the National Pollinator Strategy in the UK (DEFRA).

Standish Parish Council takes the Climate Emergency seriously and all decisions are made with that in mind. Earlier this year, councillors agreed unanimously to fund planting to extend the already successful wildflower areas on the village green, in the churchyard and alongside the B4008 outside the Malthouse. We hope that this small contribution will develop the biodiversity, support pollinators and help to maintain insect-eating wildlife e.g. swallows, swifts, robins, blue tits, woodpeckers, bats, hedgehogs, moles and shrews in our beautiful parish.

It's good to know that our efforts have been enjoyed by local residents and that several have started to develop wildflower areas in their own gardens! We will be happy to share seeds with you in September/October time.

Unfortunately, there has been some over-zealous grass cutting in both the churchyard and on the green. The extreme heat has also been challenging, but we hope the plants are tough enough to survive. We will scatter further seeds and plant some more plants when the time is right.

It was good to work with a group of volunteer students from Wycliffe College who helped plant some of the wildflower plugs in the churchyard. **AW**

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES

In recent years, the importance of trees and green space has become increasingly well-recognised. Trees play a vital role in our villages, towns and cities by delivering environmental, economic and social benefits to our communities. In Standish, we are lucky to have open fields, open-grown trees, woodland, hedgerows and plenty of amenity trees - in gardens, alongside roads and railways and in the churchyard and village green. Some of the specimens in the grounds of Standish Hospital/Green Walk are outstanding, including our famous cork oak (*Quercus suber*).

Two factors in particular have probably contributed to a greater public appreciation of trees. Firstly, the Covid pandemic has had an impact. It has been proven that spending time in and around green space can be beneficial for our physical and mental wellbeing. You may have heard of the Japanese practice of *shinrin-yoku*, or forest bathing. Being beneath the tree canopy is good for you, as you can discover for yourself in Standish Woods. When restrictions on movement were introduced in 2020 and 2021, those with access to green spaces were able to continue enjoying the benefits. However, many people in the UK are not as fortunate as us in Standish. They have no gardens, nearby public parks or even street trees, and they suffered as a result. Everyone should be able to benefit from trees, regardless of who they are, where they live or how wealthy they are.

The second factor to promote the importance of trees is the ongoing climate emergency, most recently demonstrated by temperatures in the UK exceeding 40 degrees. Trees will help mitigate the effects of the emergency, as anyone who took shelter from the recent heat under the canopy of a tree will attest - but they will not fix the wider problem, which requires other solutions..

Whilst politicians, businesses and developers may promise to plant millions, or even billions, of trees, we must sound a note of caution. Firstly, there is a duty to ensure that the beneficial effects of trees are more equally shared across society. Secondly, we rarely hear commitments to look after newly-planted trees properly. The Standish Hospital cork oak did not grow into that specimen all by itself - it took decades and centuries of establishment, care and protection from generations of arboriculturists. How many of the trees that we plant today will reach such a size and venerable age? Only time will tell.

JOHN PARKER



A local tree offers shade on a sunny day

Standish Consort

(University of Oxford Alumni Network Gloucestershire Branch)

The Standish Consort, led by Mark Wilson, continues to enjoy Thursday evening rehearsals in St Nicholas Church. The Come and Sing event on 2nd July was a great success, with about 40 additional singers joining the Consort to practise Vivaldi's Gloria, accompanied by the talented Ensemble La Notte. The church was packed for the afternoon concert, which included a stunning performance of Vivaldi's Bassoon Concerto in E minor – soloist Mark Wilson. The massed choir sang the Gloria with superb soloists from the Consort – Martina Augsborg, Jennifer Thorne and Norma Romero.



Future Standish Consort Local Events:

3rd December: Monteverdi Vespers at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud (St Nicholas is too small for this event).

17th December, 4pm, Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas Church, Standish

Contact details for events, concert tickets, friends' newsletters and further information: gloucestershire@ousoc.oxon.org

AW



St Nicholas Church, filled with music and song

Standish Village Hall News

The two pandemic lockdowns caused a reduction of 57% in income, compared to our pre-Covid income. This has made it difficult to maintain the Hall to a level that the committee would like.

However, grants from the Urbaser Community Fund in the last two years have helped to fund a number of projects including: fitting secondary glazing to the main hall, replacing the water supply and decorating the interior of the hall. This year, we have applied to Urbaser Community Fund for a grant to upgrade the toilets, which are in need of some tender loving care.



Bookings are beginning to improve, along with continuing demand from our regular commercial user - we are grateful to for their continuing support. It's worth remembering that the hall is available for private parties and as a resident you will be entitled to a reduced rate, full details are on the Standish Village website <https://standishvillage.co.uk> along with lots of other useful information. I am delighted that Melanie Gibson (PCC representative) and Oliver Kirkham (secretary) have volunteered to serve on the Management Committee. Thanks to them both.

And finally, our AGM will be held in October, date to be published on the website and via email after our next meeting on 7th September. **NIGEL MATTFIELD**

Dates for Your Diaries:

Saturday, 10th September, 11am-1pm: Defibrillator Training

Delayed due to Covid, an ERFA-led training session will be held at the Village Hall. The maximum number is 10 so, if you would like to attend this potentially life-saving training, please book a place via bookings@standishvillage.co.uk or phoning 01453 828568 / 07774 675222.

N.B. The defibrillator is available for use at all times and gives spoken instructions to the user.

September 9th -18th: 3rd Stonehouse Walking Festival

This popular festival offers a wide variety of guided walks for all ages and abilities, including Trees of Stonehouse led by our own John Parker.- and it's free.

Details of all the walks are available at stonehousewalkfest.wixsite.com There will also be some leaflets in the Village Hall and St Nicholas Church.

1st October: Standish Harvest Supper

It is many years since a harvest supper took place in the village hall, but they were always popular events. This year, a small group of volunteers has decided to revive the supper – so appropriate in our community where farming remains an important occupation. If you could help organise the supper and make it a success – **please contact Alison Widgery.**

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