

STRATFIELD MORTIMER

# Parish Council Newsletter



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**COMMUNITY AWARD 2010**



## Stratfield Mortimer Community Award 2010 Do You Know Someone Special?

The Community Award is an annual award given to a person who has devoted time and energy for the benefit of the community of Stratfield Mortimer

(irrespective of whether they live in the village or not)

We are seeking nominations for this years award; so if you know someone special who you think deserves recognition, please contact the Parish Council Clerk. Nomination Forms are also available from The Parish Office, The Library, or online at [www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](http://www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk).

### NOTE:

**Nominations close  
31st December 2009**

**SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS TO:**

The Clerk of the Council,  
The Library, 27 Victoria Road  
Mortimer  
RG7 3SH

Phone: 0118 933 1955  
Fax: 0709 231 0443  
E-mail: [the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](mailto:the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)



## FAIRGROUND REPORT – SUMMER '09

22nd July saw the arrival of another band of volunteers from the local CROW – Conservation for Reading on Wednesdays. Aided by Barry Richer, Rebecca Barker and Danusia Morsley a significant amount of work was completed on the western side of the Fairground. Many trees on the King Street boundary were smothered in ivy and these were cleared together with many of the surrounding brambles and holly shrubs. Young oak trees were transplanted from the conservation strip to the fence line bordering the footpath to Windmill Road.

27<sup>th</sup> June was scheduled for our annual pond dip managed by Karen Davies from the Pang & Kennet Valley Conservation Trust (PKVCT). Unfortunately there was no water in the pond so the event had to be cancelled with many disappointed family groups going home with empty jam jars and dry wellies!

2<sup>nd</sup> October was the day on which the PKVCT came to help clear the War Memorial pond of the mat of unwanted material that had built up since our last clearance there three years ago. This work was made very much easier as the bottom of the pond was only just damp! Karen Davis from the Trust managed a group of volunteers who were on a team-building exercise from Microsoft Limited; you will be able to see that their sterling efforts have removed just over half of the weeds from the pond. Whilst a nearby mound of waste is waiting for the necessary controlled disposal, the creepy crawlies will have the chance to get back into their pond environment. Whilst these good works were going on Barry Richer tidied up the pond's overflow sump and reinstated the course of bricks that had been removed from the top of the sump. Lowering this edge had resulted in a general lowering of the pond level leaving it more susceptible to drying out; having a higher water level will, it is hoped, lead to a healthier pond.

2<sup>nd</sup> December will see the second visit this year of the CROW group who are scheduled to start the hedging project under the fence along the Hammonds Heath boundary.

January 2010 will see the return of the Princes Trust volunteers from Newbury carrying out more winter works on our Fairground.



### PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs Jayne Kirk, Parish Clerk  
Parish Office, The Library, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer, RG7 3SH  
Tel: 0118 9331955 - Fax: 0709 2310443  
(Mail can be left in the Library post box)  
Email: [the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](mailto:the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)  
Web site: [www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](http://www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)

Minutes and agendas of Council meetings, as well as other Council information can be viewed on the above web site or on the Parish Council notice boards which are located outside the Post Office and the Library

The Parish Council Office is open:  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
10.30am -12.30pm

# The Stratfield Mortimer Parish Plan

Earlier this year as part of its initiative to refresh its Parish Plan the Parish Council sent out a questionnaire, two copies of which were delivered to each of the 1700 households in the village. We would like to take this opportunity to share the results of this important survey with you and have reproduced the results which are included in this newsletter.

The Parish Council is busy distilling all the information, input and responses, both from the questionnaire and from other village groups and organisations, into a Parish Plan Refresh document which it will then forward to West Berkshire Council for its adoption and ratification. All this means that both the Parish Council and West Berks will then have a clear statement and a roadmap for implementing those schemes and ideas that will hopefully continue to make our village a pleasant and rewarding place to live for all sections, groups and ages.

**Cllr Tom Shorrock,  
Chairman, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council**

## And now to the subject of Dog Fouling.....

There are about 7 million dogs in the UK who produce about 900 tonnes of excrement every day. Not a pleasant thought! Every dog owner is aware that dog faeces can be at best unpleasant and at the worst downright dangerous to health, particularly to children.

Everyone is aware that few owners are fortunate enough to have a pet that will only toilet in convenient places - most will just 'go' when and where they have to: inevitably in the most embarrassing and public location possible! Unfortunately there are still a few careless or irresponsible dog owners who, it seems, are not only failing to look after their pet properly, but are also failing to extend the common courtesy to the rest of the residents of Mortimer.

Not only is dog mess unpleasant and unsightly it is potentially dangerous, particularly for children. Dog faeces can cause the disease Toxocariasis.

In order to help protect all users of the Fairground and other public open spaces the Parish Council have provided a large number of 'Dog Bins', placed strategically around the Fairground and at other 'exercise' locations, to enable owners to clear up after their pets and dispose of it properly. These bins are regularly emptied and cleaned by specialist licensed contractors at a cost of over £900 a year to the Parish Council and the waste hygienically and environmentally disposed of.

We would ask that all dog owners please give thought to all of the other residents when exercising their pets and **CLEAN UP AFTER THEM**, using the dog bins provided. In particular we would ask that the rule about **NO DOGS** in the children's' play area is strictly adhered to.

If you do use our public open spaces to exercise your dog then please:

- Never take your dog into the Children's play area.
- Clean up after your dog wherever it fouls.
- Use the designated bins or take the bag home - never just throw into a nearby hedge
- Make sure your dog is regularly wormed - usually every three to six months.

Thank you for your co-operation.

# Mortimer Village Partnership

As part of the process of producing the Parish Plan Refresh document it was realised that not all of the ideas or initiatives fall within the statutory powers of the Parish Council, especially for implementing some of the social or community based projects. It was because of this that a group of people have formed themselves into a new group, separate from the Parish Council and without its legislative burdens, called the Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP).

Those who have formed the MVP say that its purpose is to involve local people directly in the life of the village by improving communications and by facilitating activities and events. Their hope is that this will enhance the lives of everyone who lives or works in the village. Some of the projects they have already started working on were identified in the Parish Plan questionnaire, as being what some particular groups felt they wanted.

Although the MVP and all those working as part of it are completely independent of the Parish Council, the Parish Council has already agreed to provide funds for hall rental to help and encourage new groups to hold their initial meetings.

The MVP has said that their key priorities for 2009/10 are:

- To set up a Mortimer community website to make it easier to find out about Mortimer and what is going on locally
- To collect information about opportunities to volunteer locally and let people who are interested know about them
- To help organise events for the whole village
- To help and support new clubs and interest groups

Some news about MVP:

- Anyone can join MVP - This is an open group of people working together to make the priorities listed above happen. The contact details of their officers are below.
- MVP will hold regular public meetings to continue to find out what the people of Mortimer want to do.
- The website is underway - the address is [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)
- They are working to contact all those who gave their names on the questionnaire to volunteer for different things; you can also contact the MVP directly - see below.

Some of the clubs mentioned in the questionnaire have already started to form and you may have seen posters around the village about Mortimer Gardening Club and Mortimer Book Club? Other groups already at work are: Mortimer Green Group, Mortimer Youth Club, Mortimer Film Club, Mortimer Theatre Club and the MVP Website Group. It is anticipated that other groups will follow if there is a desire for them. If you feel that you would like help in forming a community interest group then please contact anyone below for help and further details.

The Parish Council will continue to help and assist the MVP wherever it can.

Chairman:	Danusia Morsley	<a href="mailto:danusia@morsley.me.uk">danusia@morsley.me.uk</a>	9332620
Vice-chairman:	Sarah Morland	<a href="mailto:sarahmorland@changeoptions.org">sarahmorland@changeoptions.org</a>	9332149
Secretary:	Rebecca Barker	<a href="mailto:bbarkerdg@sky.com">bbarkerdg@sky.com</a>	9332008
Treasurer:	Ali Richardson	<a href="mailto:alison.richardson1@virginmedia.com">alison.richardson1@virginmedia.com</a>	9333256



## Station Car Park

The endeavour of the Parish Council to provide an additional car park on the east side of the station, thereby providing disabled and pushchair access to the Basingstoke platform, has been turned down at appeal. The Planning Inspector was of the opinion that wheelchairs and pushchairs using the road bridge to get from one car park to the other would be an unacceptable hazard. He also felt that a new car park in such a position would create an urbanisation of the landscape. That being so it is clear that an additional car park to the east of the station must be considered a lost cause

## Police Public Consultation Meeting

**7:30 p.m. Wednesday  
4th November  
St John's Hall  
West End Road**

Come and talk to your local friendly police team and tell them what you think the local policing priorities should be.

for the immediate future. If, however, under West Berkshire Structure Plan, Mortimer is to be subject to further major housing provision, the Parish Council will insist that, among other necessary infrastructure improvements, additional Station Car Parking is provided.

## PCSO Newsletter Autumn 2009



I am pleased to advise that we are continuing to see a downward trend in both the total crime figures. For the period July 2009 to September 2009 versus same period last year, there has been a 2% reduction in total crime. However burglaries from sheds and outhouses, are showing an increase. I would ask all parishioners to review their security on these buildings. A crime prevention visit can be booked by calling 0845 8 505 505 and requesting a member of the Burghfield Area Neighbourhood Police Team to attend.

A Mortimer Public Consultation is planned for November 2009, see elsewhere in this newsletter. This is an opportunity for you to meet with the local police team and decide upon your local policing priorities for the area. Once these priorities have been decided upon they will be actioned through the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG).

There is also an opportunity to meet your local police team at the forthcoming Parish visit scheduled for Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>, please see the village notice boards for timings nearer the time.

In addition we will also be attending Budgens and Mortimer GP surgery during the months of October through December. Please see local advertising for schedules. This is an ideal opportunity to have an informal chat whilst you are out and about in the village.

Robert Clark and I will be attending all local schools during October and November to chat to our young residents. We have also gained some funds to be able to offer prizes for an art competition. I am sure our local pupils will produce some excellent artwork which with the necessary permissions could be displayed at other public meetings.

Thames Valley Police will also be present on Remembrance Sunday and at the St Johns School fireworks night.

I look forward to meeting you at one of these events

**Steve Innes**  
**Police Community Officer/Mortimer Village**

## Useful Telephone Numbers for Residents of Mortimer

1. **Emergency Only:** Police, Fire and Ambulance. **999 or 112**
2. **Police Non Emergency 0845 8 505 505** (this is passed to a police call centre which will re-direct to appropriate manned police office or officer (recommend having post code to hand as the call centres local knowledge is sometimes limited). This number should be used to report crimes where the crime is not taking place at the time of the phone call, and to make contact with the Police on other routine matters.
3. **Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)** - Steve Innes—is also available on **07866 483954**. If there is no immediate response from this number then contact the non-emergency number above.
4. **Gas Emergency** 0800 111 999
5. **Mortimer Doctors Surgery** 0118 933 2436
6. **Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Office** 0118 933 1955
7. **West Berks. Council Offices** 01635 42400 Main Office
8. **West Berks Council Out of Hours Service.** 01635 42161. This service can respond to noise complaints (house alarms, neighbour nuisance such as a late running party, or construction or demolition noise), to major concerns over aspects of environmental health such as food, and to emergency issues which would normally be dealt with by the authority (not road accidents or fires for example—these need to be advised to the relevant emergency service). Please use this service responsibly.
9. **West Berks Street Care** 01635 519080. To report problems with Abandoned Vehicles, Trees, Travellers, Flooding, Blocked Drains, Graffiti, Street Lighting, Fly Tipping, Refuse Collection including Bulk Waste collection, Street Cleaning.
10. **Removal of Used Syringes** (within 2 hours) Office Hours 01635 519192. Out of Office Hours 01635 42161.
11. **Thames Water** 0845 9200800
12. **Samaritans** 08457 90 90 90
13. **Mortimer Chemist** 0118 933 2373
14. **St John's School** 0118 933 2242
15. **St Mary's School** 0118 933 2491
16. **Willink School** 0118 983 2030
17. **Flood Line** 0845 988 1188

# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Refresh Questionnaire 2009

## Results – what the village said



The Stratfield Mortimer Parish Plan Refresh Questionnaire was delivered to every house in Stratfield Mortimer at the beginning of May 2009. 948 people completed and returned the questionnaire; this is about 31% of the total adult population. Here you can see the answers they gave:

<b>Which of the following activities would you like to see happening in Mortimer?</b>						
	I would attend weekly	I would attend monthly	I don't want this	I might get involved in setting this up	I might help occasionally	No response
A daytime book group	7	80	445	4	21	408
An evening book group	4	93	431	3	27	403
A gardening club	29	206	324	9	41	358
Saturday morning film club for children	38	132	298	15	42	448
Evening film club for adults	27	251	282	11	27	365
Additional drop in centre for parents with babies/toddlers	30	39	378	7	20	482
A club for older people organising e.g. theatre trips	31	143	329	17	37	402
A club for single people organising evening events	17	42	398	3	10	483
Organised family walks	27	146	289	5	32	461
A youth club for 9-12	57	58	279	22	55	492
An youth club for 13-16	55	52	282	27	60	485

<b>A Variety of suggestions have been put forward for a community coffee shop that might include an Internet Café, meeting place, local produce market etc. What do you think?</b>	Great idea	No opinion	I don't want this	I would like to join a group working to make this happen	No response
	601	157	48	30	137

<b>Which of the following events would you support?</b>	I would like this	I don't want this	I might get involved in setting this up	No response
A village fun day	654	84	33	177
A winter fair	496	180	19	253
A sports tournament	330	257	18	343
Village litter-picking with picnic	421	189	43	295
Carboot sales	327	401	8	212

**Many ideas have been suggested for changes on the Fairground; which of the following would you support?**

	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
All-weather pitch between the 2 multi-sports walls	402	152	237	157
Adventure playground for older children	474	167	173	134
Adapting the tennis court to enable other sports	552	129	152	115
Floodlight tennis courts to increase use	429	195	175	149
More trees to provide shade	496	141	161	150
Play equipment for disabled children	555	63	187	143
Modest increase in car park size	482	226	129	111

<b>Would you support a further Traveller's Site within the parish?</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
	23	794	96	35

**Do you think Public Toilets should be provided, open during daylight hours?**

	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
In the village centre	465	324	102	57
At the station	417	267	148	116

**Would you use bicycle anchorage points if they were provided?**

	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
Outside village shops	387	306	180	75
At the station in addition to those already there	233	363	225	127
On the Fairground	268	371	194	115

**Should Royal Mail be asked to provide post boxes at the following places?**

	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
In Victoria Road	445	126	303	74
At a village car park	321	199	293	135
Mortimer Hill development	298	123	406	121

<b>Would you like the library....</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
To extend opening hours	360	128	352	108
Provide more books	382	85	368	113

**The following measures have been indicated as possible solution to the traffic problems for the parents/children who are unable to walk to and from St. Mary's School. (Please rank these solutions into which best solves this transport problem**

	1 - Most Acceptable	2	3	4	5 - Least acceptable	No response
Car park drop-off facility for school & church use only	468	73	70	32	71	234
Subsidised bus fare on existing service	227	178	176	33	55	279
Dedicated fare-paying school bus service	233	180	152	46	48	289
Avoid the school at drop-off and pick-up times	47	28	52	151	373	297
Do nothing with school parking problem	63	27	60	114	376	308
I am not affected by this	243					

**The Parish Council would like your opinion regarding car parking at Mortimer Station.**

	Essential	Desirable	Not important	No opinion	No response
Additional parking space at Station is:	411	312	85	104	36
Disabled access to both platforms is:	404	348	42	114	40

**What importance do you place on the measures the Parish Council should investigate to reduce the speed of traffic within the village?**

	Essential	Desirable	Not important	No opinion	No response
Police enforcement such as mobile speed traps	212	290	269	69	108
Vehicle activated signs like one at the Turners' Arms	243	426	154	35	90
20mph flashing signs outside schools at drop-off & pick-up times	436	345	72	25	70
Other traffic calming measures such as chicanes	129	196	414	80	129
Speed indicator devices (operated by Parish Council)	121	361	240	107	119

<b>Do you wish the Parish Council to look at the feasibility of having crossing points on West End Road and Victoria Road to allow children and the less mobile to cross safely</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
	644	120	148	36

<b>Would you support the introduction of bollard or other physical restrictions to stop PAVEMENT parking in the area of the Post Office/Dentist/Bank?</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
	533	307	70	38

<b>If suitable land could be identified in Mortimer, would you be interested in having an allotment?</b>	Yes	No	No response
	195	673	80

<b>Do you think the village should be more proactive in reducing our carbon footprint?</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	I would like to join a group to progress this	No response
	504	114	238	35	57

<b>Do you feel that dog fouling and/or litter are a problem in Mortimer?</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
Litter	548	261	80	59
Dog fouling	468	307	111	62

<b>Do you feel the village needs ....</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
More dog bins	473	178	184	113
More litter bins	576	163	111	98
More signs	457	237	145	109
An anti-litter/dog-fouling campaign	464	212	172	100

<b>Would you like the village to have a web-site which has the following?</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
Information about clubs	707	21	131	89
A swap shop or free-cycle	654	47	160	87
Info on schools/doctors etc.	716	29	106	97
Message board	655	36	161	96
Volunteer message board	320	107	397	124
Links to PC/ WBC	628	52	155	113
Local Business ads	553	93	187	115
A village events diary	748	18	86	96
Youth pages	548	38	243	119

<b>Would you be willing to help maintain a village web site?</b>	Yes	No	No response
	35	805	108

<b>Should the Parish Council develop a list of volunteers who would be willing to help with Parish Initiatives such as community planting, conservation work, helping support local events, fund raising etc?</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
	264	104	445	135

<b>What do you think of the service provided for the village by the following:</b>	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No opinion	Not applicable	No response
Fire service	646	80	1	139	31	51
Police	168	339	264	100	13	64
Police Community Support Officers	262	342	150	114	14	66
Doctors	599	241	42	15	6	45
Ambulance service	270	167	26	321	82	82
Dentist	370	179	83	181	66	69
Chemist	703	174	20	7	2	42
Healthcare	203	179	30	354	94	88
Library	444	293	23	111	24	53
PC Office	170	232	67	360	46	73
DC Surgery	117	176	38	465	71	81

<b>How often do you use the following facilities?</b>	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never	No response
Willink Pool or Leisure Centre	10	148	27	37	256	422	48
Fairground	107	207	49	56	331	148	50
Tennis Courts	2	38	11	8	166	667	56
Cricket Pitches	7	9	3	0	54	814	61
Children's Playground	45	142	45	43	197	423	53
Football Pitches	11	42	12	13	110	694	66
The Library	6	130	97	141	342	189	43
Minibus to Station	13	12	8	17	216	634	48

<b>Do you feel your elected representatives in Local Government are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings?</b>	Fully aware	Quite aware	Not aware	No opinion	No response
Stratfield Mortimer PC	125	362	130	280	51
West Berkshire Council	53	300	227	304	64

<b>If suggestions raised by this questionnaire require funding by the Parish Council, are you prepared to pay for this through an increase in Council Tax?</b>	Yes	No	No opinion	No response
	329	341	150	128

<b>Gender</b>	Male	Female	No response
	372	516	60

<b>Age range</b>	16 - 18	19 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 60	over 60	No response
	13	24	267	254	334	56

<b>What is the one-way distance between your home and your place of work or place of education (in miles)?</b>						
Work from home	Less than 5	5 - 15	16-30	More than 30	Not applicable	No response
88	109	207	76	85	288	95

<b>Do you have a long-term medical condition or a disability that has practical effects on your lifestyle?</b>	Yes	No	No response
	112	792	44

## **Stratfield Mortimer Parish Plan Refresh Youth Questionnaire - 2009**

### **What the young people of the village said**

The Stratfield Mortimer Parish Plan Refresh Questionnaire was taken into St. Mary's Junior School and Willink School at the beginning of May 2009. Copies were available for those in year 3 and above attending other schools. 133 completed questionnaires were returned. Here are the responses those young people gave:

<b>Which school year are you in?</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
3-5	39	34
6-8	15	13
9-11	17	15
	71	62

Great idea, definitely would like	OK, but not that important	No, don't want	Left blank
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### What would you like to see on the Fairground?

Play area for older kids	80	43	10	0
Cycle Trail	65	46	21	1
Fitness Trail	56	61	11	5
Multi-sport tennis courts	51	44	33	5
More trees create shade	60	47	22	4
Bike racks	58	54	18	3
All weather pitch	64	42	22	5
Zip wire	107	20	5	1
Football goals	39	58	33	3

### What other things would you like to see in Mortimer?

A winter fair	74	38	18	3
A sports tournament	64	50	18	1
Litter-picking days	50	38	43	2
A Village fun day	88	36	8	1
Organised walks	35	61	34	3
Saturday am film club	58	51	22	2
Village website	53	57	21	2

Great idea, definitely would like	OK, but not that important	No, don't want	Left blank
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### What would you like to see in the new Community Centre?

Youth drop-in centre	66	51	14	2
Tuck shop in Comm Centre	89	31	9	4
Computer access	83	41	8	1
Hobbies/club	80	40	10	3
Indoor play area	61	48	21	3
Other for Comm Centre - tell us	31	8	2	92

**If a youth drop-in centre was created what would you like to see in it?**

Just a place to hang out	91	31	9	2
Times to go when just kids	78	41	11	3
Youth Leader club	49	50	30	4
PC Internet access	85	39	6	3
Tuck shop at Drop-in	91	34	6	2
TV	90	31	11	1
Games and books	93	32	6	2
Disco/sports	87	37	8	1

**What would you like to see at Mortimer library?**

More books for older kids	77	38	15	3
More computers	72	46	13	2
Bigger area	69	43	20	1
Selection books changed	64	56	11	2
More best sellers	80	43	9	1
More magazines	69	46	15	3
More DVDs	111	18	3	1
Separate older area	81	37	12	3
Competitions etc	68	44	19	2
Kids book reviews	52	53	25	3

**How important are these to you?**

	<b>This is very important to me</b>	<b>I don't see this as a</b>	<b>I am not affected by</b>	<b>Left blank</b>
Safe school route	95	23	9	6
Litter free village	95	27	7	4
Plenty of school parking	84	29	16	4
Stop cars speeding	100	19	9	5
Stop pavement parking	85	32	12	4
Pedestrian crossings	81	33	13	6
Stop graffiti	86	30	13	4
Bus to Willink	77	25	27	4
Bus to railway station	73	34	20	6
Bus to St. Mary's School	69	34	26	4

If you have any questions about this document, please contact the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Office:

0118 9331955

[the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](mailto:the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)