

STRATFIELD MORTIMER Parish Council Newsletter

- **Be positive and represent your Community**

Parish Councillor Vacancies

- **Do you know someone worthy of recognition?**

Nominations for Community Award 2015

- **Advertising in the Village**

The current situation



August 2014

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VACANCIES

Two Vacancies for Parish Councillors

Apply now

**Open to all
eligible
candidates**

Be positive and represent Your Community

There are currently two vacancies for Parish Councillors to serve on Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council for the remaining term of office until the Parish Council Elections to be held on 7th May 2015.

- As a by-Election was not called for either of the two recent vacancies these will now be filled by a co-option process. Applications are now warmly invited by the Parish Council.
- These positions are open to eligible candidates (defined on the Application Form) who wish to take an active part in the decision making process of the Parish and to represent the interest of the whole community.
- The Parish Council has a wide range of powers and duties for the Village and Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except August/December) at 7:30pm at the Methodist Hall.
- If you are able to commit approximately two evenings a month and feel you are able to make a contribution to Mortimer please complete an Application Form.



VACANCIES FOR TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS

Application Forms and further information

are available to download from the

SMPC Website www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

or copies available at Mortimer Library

Please return completed application form (hard copy only)

to Jayne Kirk (Parish Clerk)
Parish Council Office
Mortimer Library
27 Victoria Road

Mortimer RG7 3SH

marking the envelope **'Confidential Councillor Application'**

Closing Date for applications is

NOON Tuesday 23rd September 2014

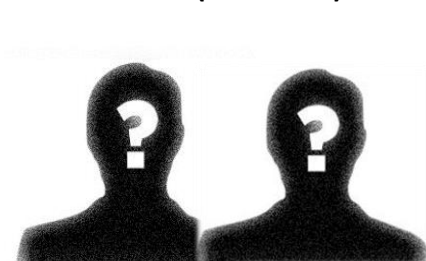
Members of Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council to May 2015



Mike Dennett (Chairman)



Julian Earl (Vice Chairman)



CLLrs ?? Could this be you?



Tracy Audsley (P Co F FGP)



Pete Blagden (F Co FGP)



John Bull (F R Ce)



Phil Challis (P Ce)



Austin Colaço (P R Co)

Continued over page



Dudley Ives (P R FGP)



Neil Kiley (P F FGP)



Mollie Lock (F R)



John Morden (P)



Angie Phillips (P R)



Pat Wingfield (Ce FGP)



Jayne Kirk (The Clerk)



Frank Stansfield (Custodian)

Community Award 2015

*Nominations are sought for
the 2015 Stratfield
Mortimer Community
Award,
which is an annual award
given to a person who has
devoted time and energy for
the benefit of the community
of Stratfield Mortimer.*

*Nomination forms are
available from the Parish
Council Office, the Library or
the Parish Council website.
The deadline for nominations is
31st December 2014.*

List of previous Recipients of the Community Award

- 1983 **Miss Ruth Moore** for services as Health Visitor and District Nurse and involvement in various local voluntary organisations.
- 1984 **George Bowman** For services to Parish as Custodian.
- 1985 **John Dell** for 20 yrs as Secretary of the Management Committee of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Playing Field Committee.
- 1986 **Ruth Crichton** for service on Parish, District & County Council and for her efforts to secure the land to build the library and sheltered accommodation for the elderly (Windmill Court).
- 1987 **Ruby Fidler** for organising the Silver Link Club for many years.
Joyce Worrell for her dedication to the Meals on Wheels Service.
- 1988 **Peter Johnson** for his long service to the Mortimer Baden Powell Scout Group
Jeremy Hicks as a founder member of St Mary's PTA and as a youth club leader.
- 1989 **Peter Simpson** for his service to the elderly.
- 1990 **Betty Haines** for many years service for the Volunteer Bureau and MAST (stroke after care organisation).
- 1991 **Phil Challis** for being a member of the Mortimer Volunteer Fire Service for 33 years.
- 1992 **Barbara & Ken Grummitt** Ken for service to the St John's Hall Management Committee, the British Legion and the Parochial Church Council and Barbara for her work with the WI.
- 1993 No Award made.
- 1994 **John Bull** for his long service to St John's Hall Management Committee (booking clerk and maintenance) and as a long serving governor to both village schools.
- 1995 **David Grimwade** for many years service to the community.
- 1996 **Derek Seward** as a founder member of the tennis & badminton clubs & for organising the Mortimer Fun Run for 10yrs.
- 1997 No Award made.
- 1998 No Award made.
- 1999 **John Mazilius** for his service to the community.
- 2000 No Award made.
- 2001 **Sam With** for many years service to Mortimer Cubs.
Mary Plank for many years service to Mortimer Guides.
- 2002 **Alan Thorpe** for his long service as District Councillor, Head Teacher at St Mary's School, Governor of Willink School and Chairman of the Volunteer Bureau.
- 2003 **Freda Batten** for being School Crossing Warden for 25 years.
Jack Sibley for his service to the cubs, scouts, league of friends at Windmill Court and the British Legion.

- 2004 **Don McNamara** for 20 years service producing and editing the Mortimer Life Magazine.
- 2005 **Laurie & Val Drake** for their exceptional service to the community.
- 2006 **Peggy Hood** for long service to the local community including the Dramatic Society, St John's Church Choir & Volunteer Bureau.
Mary Edwards for setting up and running the yearly art show plus permanent display of paintings in the Surgery.
- 2007 **Colin & June Woodward** for their work in founding and leading the Mortimer History Group for thirty years.
- 2008 **Grace Butler** for her work with Mortimer Pre School & St John's School.
- 2009 **Lawrence Picking** for his contribution to the life of the village, in many roles, over many years.
- 2010 **Carmen Robinson** for her work with Age Concern Coffee Club.
- 2011 **Barry & Ellen Walklett** as active members of the British Legion and aiding many people within the village for over 30 years.
- 2012 **Jean May** as a stalwart of The Volunteer Bureau for over 30 years both as a driver and as secretary.
- 2013 **Harry Smith** for auditing many local charities' accounts for over 40 years (ex gratia) e.g. Playgroup, Brownies, Guides, Scouts and St John's Hall
- 2014 No Award made

The scheme introduced in 1983 is intended to publicly recognise outstanding service to the community in Mortimer. Awards are to be made very sparingly – some years there may well be none – so that they achieve a worthy civic status.

Likely recipients might be people who have worked for the community without reward over many years or those who have worked for nominal reward but have exceeded their normal duties.

Anyone, whether resident in Stratfield Mortimer or not, may nominate a person as a potential recipient of an award. Serving members of the Parish and District Councils are not eligible for an award in connection with their work as Councillors.

The recipient receives a specially commissioned commemorative plate at the Annual Parish Meeting held in April and their name is displayed on the Community Award Board in St John's Hall.

Commemoration of the outbreak of World War One

A parish civic service commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and the men from this parish who sacrificed their lives was held at St John's Church on 3rd August. During the following week, there was a display in the Church commemorating all the men from Mortimer, Mortimer West End and Padworth who died in the First World War (organized by the Mortimer Local History Group).

The Parish Council will work with the Mortimer Local History Group over the next four years to mark, in the Parish Council Newsletter, anniversaries of those who died.

In 2004 Major John F Kemp MBE presented the Parish Council with his results of his research into the names on the Mortimer War Memorial. This contains a short narrative on each name and printed copies of the Casualty Details and Cemetery Details from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This was bound as a book and a copy is available for reference in Mortimer Library. To commemorate World War One, the Parish Council is producing an online version of this work, which will initially be available on the Parish Council website.

**This year's Remembrance Service will be held at
the War Memorial at 11 am on
Sunday 9th November.**



Part-funded PCSO,

Olivia Davies (pictured) is the Parish Council's part-funded Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). Keep an eye out for the regular '*Have your say*' meetings held in the village. For advice and information see monthly updates on www.thamesvalley.police.uk and search for

Pangbourne and Burghfield or on the notice board outside the police office in Victoria Road.

Parish Council Meeting Information

Members of the public are welcome at all Full Council and Committee Meetings of the Council.

Before proceedings begin, there is a Public Questions Slot.

Agendas published at least 3 days prior to meeting.

Full Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, except in August and December. These take place in the Lounge (back room) of the Mortimer Methodist Church, West End Road and commence at 7:30 pm. It may be necessary to ring the doorbell at the Church main entrance to be let in (because of the security of the Church Hall).

Before proceedings begin, there is a **Public Questions Slot** (maximum 10 minutes) in which members of the public can briefly address the Council. Any such discussion will not form part of the formal proceedings of the Parish Council and will therefore not be included in the Council's official minutes. Any resultant follow up action will be dealt with separately.

The Agenda for full Parish Council Meetings, showing the business to be discussed, are displayed on the

two Parish Council Notice Boards (one outside the Library entrance and one outside the Post Office) at least three days before the meeting. The current agenda is also available on the SMPC website, Meetings and Minutes Page on the same timescale.

Parish Council Committee Meetings are usually held in the Parish Council Office at the rear of the Library. Entrance is via the outside gate to the left of the library building. Dates for all Committee meetings are posted on the two notice boards and are listed on the SMPC website, Meetings and Minutes Page.

Because of the tight timescale imposed by Government on planning applications, Planning Committee Meetings are held whenever required and details of the applications to be discussed are posted on the two Parish Council notice boards three days in advance. The latest agenda is available on the SMPC website, Meetings and Minutes Page. All planning applications are available for inspection in the Parish Council Office or can be viewed on the Planning Pages of West Berkshire Council's Website



The Stratfield Mortimer Full Parish Council Meeting dates for the remainder of 2014 are:

11th September

9th October

13th November

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council's Advertising and Fly Posting Policy

The Parish Council Advertising and Fly Posting Policy Review September 2014.

The Parish Council first adopted its Advertising and Fly Posting Policy in 2001 following complaints about advertisements and posters and their effects on visual amenity and road safety. It has reviewed it many times since, the last Policy review was on 10th October 2013 when the Parish Council agreed the only change was to increase the maximum size of a poster allowed on the Fairground fence to A0, but that the rest of the policy remained unchanged.

The Adopted Policy (October 2013) is copied on page 20, and is available on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council staff work to this Policy and are not authorised to act on a case by case basis or to make arbitrary decisions on the Policy. Given the review of the Policy in October 2013 and its adoption by the Full Council, it is absolutely correct that the Parish Council staff endeavour to carry out this policy.

Recently some concerns and complaints have been raised about this Policy and therefore The Parish Council agreed at its July meeting 2014 that it will "Consider the SMPC Advertising and Fly Posting Policy" at the next Full Parish Council meeting on 11th September 2014. It would be helpful to the Parish Council to gain a feel of public opinion about this matter prior to its meeting on 11th September. Two likely scenarios are:

Scenario One – leave the Adopted Advertising Policy as it is? This currently protects the visual amenity of the village. Over the years an understanding and co-operation has been achieved with most local organisations and Fairground users (e.g. the Schools, Church, Fun Run, RNLI, Fire Brigade, Circus, Fair etc) and that every organisation is treated fairly and the same.

Are there ways in which the effectiveness of this Policy could be improved, such as the provision of more village notice boards (prior formal permission would need to be obtained from WBC to site a notice board on Highway Land), informing the community that notices (such as a lost pet) can be placed on these boards?

Scenario Two – Disband the Advertising Policy? In this instance, SMPC will be unable to control advertising/fly posting within the parish by commercial companies, private individuals, organisations from outside the village as well as village organisations. Whenever there have been attempts to advertise in this way the Parish Council has usually received a number of phone calls/representations from parishioners complaining about it.

If you feel you would like to give a concise helpful comment to be fed back to the Parish Council when it considers the current Advertising Policy at the Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 11th September.


Please email The Clerk on the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk with ‘Advertising Policy’ in the subject box. Alternatively letters can also be posted to the Parish Council (or put through the Library Letter Box) at 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer, Reading RG7 3SH (please mark envelope ‘Advertising Policy’) before Tuesday 9th September.

The Parish Council will not respond to any correspondence but will summarise the outcome on the SMPC Website and in the next edition of the Newsletter.

**Thank you
Cllr Mike Dennett, Chairman SMPC**

Consultation on Draft West Berkshire Council Housing Site Allocation DPD Preferred Options

It also allocates sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople as well as including updated residential parking standards.




These documents identify preferred sites for housing development throughout West Berkshire in accordance with the spatial strategy of the West Berkshire Core Strategy.

Consultation started on 25th July and ends on the 12th September.

The documents and how to comment are at www.westberks.gov.uk/hsapreferredoptions

There is a link to this from the Parish Council website. Printed copies of all the documentation are also available in Mortimer and Burghfield Libraries. The Parish Council will be responding to the consultation and encourages residents to also do so.

**Another consultation
about the use of
Developer's contributions**



There is also a consultation, running over the same period on the "*Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Developer contributions from new*

development". This is about the use of developer's contributions after the introduction of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) in April 2015.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

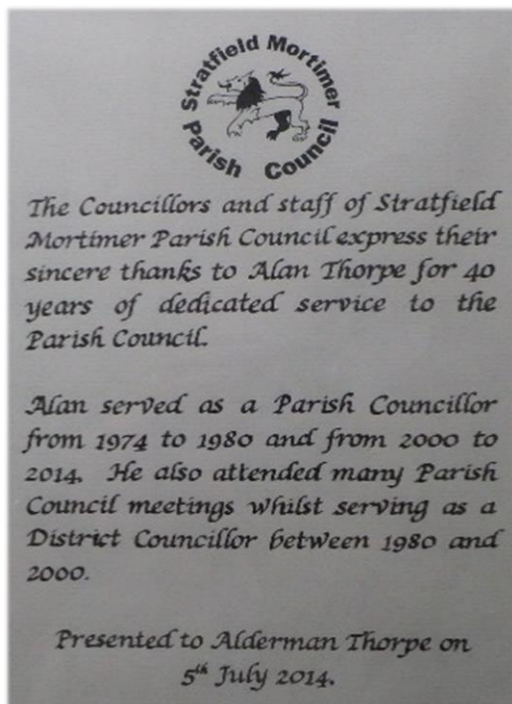
Thank you to all of you who attended the Exhibition held on The Fairground on Sunday 6th July. Attendees were asked to choose three 'good' ideas and to identify any 'bad' ideas on a range of topics that could form part of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The analysis of the results, along with comments made at the event, is now available on the Parish Council website www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk and a printed copy is available for consultation in the library. So please have a look and see how the community ranked the ideas. To whet your appetite, the highest ranked ideas under Residential Development (a) and Historic Environment and Landscape Character (b) were:

(a) No development will impinge on the open spaces within the village envelope (The Fairground, Alfred Palmer Memorial Field, Windmill Common, Summerlug).

(b) Mortimer will be retained as a 'dark' village and as such new developments will not have any street lighting.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group will also be making detailed comments on the West Berkshire Council Housing Site Allocation DPD Preferred Options (see previous article) and encourages residents to do so. The site allocations information for Mortimer is in Chapter 4 starting on page 27.

For Mortimer there are two options. In Option 1 the NDP will allocate the sites for at least 100 houses, whereas in Option 2 West Berkshire Council will allocate the sites. The document shows the sites preferred by WBC should Option 2 go ahead. The NDP Steering Group is very much in favour of Option 1 so that we can incorporate as far as possible the wishes of residents that the Group will be ascertaining during the NDP process.



Alan Thorpe Presentation

Certificate of thanks presented to Alan Thorpe at the MVP Fun Day. Alan Thorpe has recently retired from the Parish Council and has served the community of



Mortimer since 1969 in various roles (see article in the last Newsletter). At the Fun Day on 5th July Alan was presented with a certificate of thanks from the Parish Council. The certificate was hand written by Cllr Julian Earl and presented by Chairman Cllr Mike Dennett.

Photo of Alan Thorpe courtesy of Dara Portraits

Unexpected Costs

The approximate cost to the Council for the break in and substantial damage to the Parish Council's shed and the shed compound area on The Fairground on the 19th April this year is £2,100. The approximate cost of the forced entry and encroachment by travellers on the 13th May this year is £1,300.

Tennis Court refurbishment and new sports shelter

The Tennis Courts are in the process of being refurbished. Apologies for the inconvenience of the Tennis Courts being unavailable during the summer but the works had to be completed before the frosts, etc and within timescales set by Sports England. It is hoped that the work will be completed by mid-September. A ServeAce® Tennis Practice Fence is also being incorporated into the existing fence on the East side of the Tennis Courts.

An Inspired Facility



The Sports shelter for the Tennis courts has now been ordered and will be installed in the next few weeks.

Mortimer Life Magazine

It is sadly noted that the Mortimer Life Magazine has now stopped production and thanks should be extended to all who contributed especially Don McNamara who received the Community Award in 2004 for his work on this.

4th COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE



SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER
6:00 PM

More information will be on the Notice Boards and the SMPC Website nearer the time - please **write the date on your calendar** so you can come along and join in this annual community event!

MVP award

The Parish Council sent a letter of congratulations to the MVP on being awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Dates for future events on The Fairground

Sun 7 Sept

Mon 8 Sept – Sat 13 Sept

Sun 28 Sept

Saturday 11 Oct

Saturday 13 Dec

Mortimer Riding Club

Burnett's Funfair

Mortimer Fun Run

Mortimer Riding Club

Community Carol Singing(around the Christmas Tree) (see info on page 17)

In memory of Rita Mace

A Bench was presented to the Parish Council in memory of Rita Mace.

Many of you will remember Michael and Rita Mace who lived in Mortimer for many years. Sadly, Rita passed away in 2012. In her memory, Michael has

generously donated a bench to the Parish Council which has been installed near the pond on The Fairground. Michael presented the seat to the Council at a small ceremony on 22nd July attended by the family and Parish Councillors. Picture above shows the Mace family: Michael, Ian and Jo (visiting from Australia) presenting the seat to the Parish Council Chairman.



Christmas is Coming

The Christmas Tree hole has been repaired. The permanent hole for the Christmas Tree on The Fairground, damaged Christmas 2013, has recently been repaired, and the Christmas Tree for 2014 ordered from The Englefield Estate.

The Parish Council would like to thank residents for their concern/help in previous years with the erected Christmas Tree. This year the Parish Council Custodian (who is a qualified tree expert) is to have sole responsibility on behalf of the Parish Council for the Christmas Tree and its safety in order to comply with the SMPC insurance requirements. Of course, please report any safety concerns you may have with the Christmas Tree to the Clerk of the Council on the Fairground Emergency Telephone Number 0709 2310325 (but not by email). Thank you.

Superfast Broadband - Mortimer

There is up-to-date info on SMPC website and also links to WBC website on this. Most of Stratfield Mortimer will be upgraded in phases 2 and 3 which are scheduled to provide upgrades between Oct this year and July 2015.

For an update on the project go
to <http://www.superfastberkshire.org.uk/>

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council's Advertising and Fly Posting Policy 2013

The Adopted Policy (October 2013), which is also available on the Parish Council website, states:

1. General:

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council has a long standing policy to control advertising and fly posting within the Parish. The policy does not allow indiscriminate advertising/fly posting on telegraph poles, trees, street furniture, road signs, fences or highway verges etc. Any advertising material which contravenes this Policy will be removed.

2. Village Notice Boards:

There are six Village Notice Boards within the Parish:

- 1. Victoria Road (outside Mortimer Library).*
- 2. Victoria Road (at the entrance to College Piece).*
- 3. St Catherine's Hill (opposite the entrance to Sweetzer's Piece).*
- 4. Windmill Road (near to the entrance to Spring Lane).*
- 5. The Street (at the entrance to the Fairground Car Park).*
- 6. The Street (outside St Mary's School).*

The Parish Council's Policy for the Village Notice Boards is as follows:

- Dated event advertisements - may stay on the boards until the event has passed.
- Any undated/ongoing event advertisements – the Parish Council will monitor and write the date on the advertisement and then remove it after a period of 2 weeks.
- Only drawing pins to be used, no staple guns.

3. Advertising on The Fairground Fence

The Policy controlling advertising on The Fairground Fence is administered differently. This requires local organisations (from within the village) or hirers of The Fairground wishing to advertise on the Fairground Fence to apply, in writing, separately for each event, to the Parish Council Clerk to obtain permission. The notice may be displayed for up to 2 weeks in Advance.

The maximum size of any notice is A0 (46.8in (1189 mm) x 33.1in (841mm) and permitted notices must be secured to the Fence using a special bracket or plastic ties/string. The use of nails/screws etc is not permitted.

Useful phone numbers/email/Website Addresses

Fairground Emergency **0709 2310325**

To report any emergencies and dangerous situations on The Fairground.
For non emergencies please contact Parish Council Office.

Police Non-Emergency **101**

To report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response.

NHS non-Emergency **111**

If you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency.

West Berks Council **01635 42400**

West Berkshire Council Out of Hours Emergency Contact **01635 42161**

To report major incidents out of hours.

West Berkshire Council Streetcare Team **01635 519080**
Streetcare@westberks.gov.uk

To report problems with streets, roads, highways, pavements, etc.

West Berkshire District Councillors for the Mortimer Ward **Cllr Mollie Lock**
0118 9332858
Cllr Geoff Mayes
0118 9332536

The Mortimer Village Partnership **www.mortimervillage.org.uk**

For village news and information on events, including a directory of local clubs and businesses.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Jayne Kirk, Parish Clerk
Parish Council Office
The Library
27 Victoria Road
Mortimer
RG7 3SH

Tel: 0118 933 1955 – Fax: 0709 2310443
The Fairground Emergency Telephone Number 0709 2310325

Email: the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Website: www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Minutes and Agendas of Council meetings, as well as other Council information can be viewed on the above website 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,
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Please go through the side gate if the Library is closed)