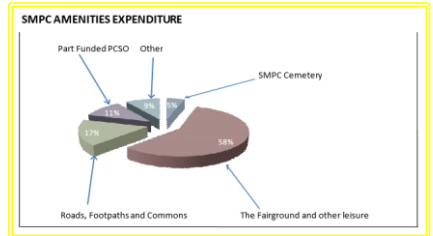


STRATFIELD MORTIMER Parish Council Newsletter

Increasing SMPC's investment in the Community.

2015/16 budget update
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KEEP
CALM
AND
STAND
FOR
ELECTION

Why not stand as a Stratfield Mortimer Parish Councillor in May?

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Neighbourhood Development Plan

Update from the NDP Chairman
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March 2015

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Parish Council Elections



The Parish Council Elections are to be held on the same day as the General Election on **Thursday 7 May 2015**

Why not consider standing as a **Parish Councillor** on the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council.



Councillor
[your name here]

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council has 15 seats. Do you feel you could represent your community?



A Parish Council can make a difference by thinking, listening and acting locally to improve the quality of life in the parish. It is a voice for the local community especially in the local decision making process. Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council is not a political council. It is a statutory body elected democratically as the first tier of local Government.

There are normally 10 full parish council meetings a year plus committee meetings and other work. You really need to be able to commit at least two evenings a month to attend meetings. If you feel you can make a contribution to the Parish then see the next page detailing how to get more information and how to apply.

Parish Council Elections



For more information

Contact the Parish Clerk (Jayne Kirk) 0118 9331955.

Jayne can provide details regarding eligibility and try to answer any other questions you may have regarding the Parish Council.

Or look at the SMPC website. www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

For Application forms

Contact the Elections Office at West Berkshire Council on 01635 519464.

Or from the Parish Council Clerk.

Nomination papers for the elections on 7 May 2015 **MUST** be submitted in person and handed to the Returning Officer or a member of his staff at West Berkshire Council offices in Newbury during normal office hours anytime between **9:00 am** on **Monday 23 March 2015** and **NO LATER** than **4:00pm** on **9 April 2015**.



THE POWER TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE IN
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Parish Council remembers Councillor John Morden

John was a stalwart to the Community and served on the Parish Council for over 23 years from when he was elected onto Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council at the Parish Council Elections on 1 May 1991 until his death on 22 October 2014.



During his time as a serving Councillor John made an outstanding contribution to the Parish Council and he was Chairman of the Parish Council from 1997 - 2000. From 2000 until 2014 he was the Chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee, an onerous task that he carried out exceptionally well.

John was instrumental in the setting up of the Willink Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool which opened in the 1997. The Willink Leisure Centre is part funded and subsidised annually by contributions from Burghfield, Stratfield Mortimer and Sulhamstead Parish Councils. John served on the West Berkshire Council Willink Leisure Centre Liaison Committee as the Parish Council representative, until his death, to ensure that the Parish Council's investment was put to good use for the benefit of the Parish.

John is sorely missed by the Parish Council and it seems strange not to see him sat round the table at Parish Council Meetings.

The Parish Council has been fortunate to be able to name the new development (at the Squirrels Lodge site in West End Road) as **'Morden Close'** in his memory as a lasting tribute to his service to the Community of Mortimer. The Parish Council greatly appreciates all of John's contributions and would like to express thanks to his wife, Pam Morden, for all her support of John in carrying out his duties.

SMPC Budget 2015/2016

Increasing SMPC's investment in the Community

At the January 2015 SMPC meeting the budget for 2015/2016 was unanimously approved.

SMPC BUDGET 2015/2016	
£	
Expenditure	126,143
Other Income	<u>13,303</u>
Precept request	<u><u>112,840</u></u>

- The Parish Council's budget sets out its expenditure plans for the coming financial year and this determines how much income is required to fund the council's activities.
- The major source of income is the **Precept**. The precept is the local council's share of the council tax. The Precept demand goes to West Berkshire Council who collects the tax on behalf of SMPC.
- SMPC also earns income from other sources, such as Cemetery Fees and Fairground Fees and this is estimated to be in 2015/2016 approximately £13,303.
- For the year 2015/2016 SMPC requested a Precept from West Berkshire Council of £112,840 and although this is higher than in the previous year it represents an **increase in investment in the community amenities and services.**

What does this mean for you?

The increase in Precept (approximately 24% higher) means that Council Tax for a Band D Household will rise from £56.94 to £69.70. This is an increase of £12.76 per annum (25p per week). The Parish Council agreed when it set the 2015/2016 budget at its meeting on the 15 January that this is a relatively small extra cost to help deliver additional amenities and services.

More detail on our budget plans

Over the coming year additional funds are planned for:

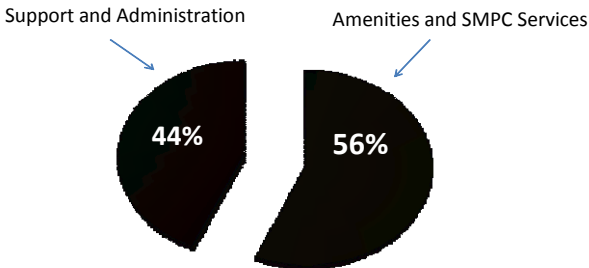
- Refurbish The Fairground car park
- Provide new information boards on the Fairground and replacement/new public notice boards around the village
- Renovating the Fairground ponds
- Improving the Christmas Tree and lights
- To look into erecting bollards near the café Victoria Road to prevent pavement parking
- Planting bulbs around the village
- A country footpaths project to include a local information map/booklet, signposting of the rights of way, information boards etc.

These are just some of the non-routine items included in the budget this year,

Summary of Expenditure

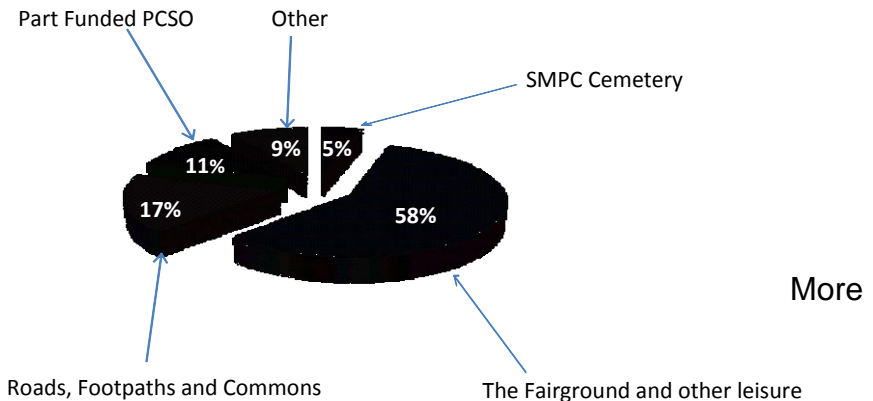
How will SMPC spend its Budget?

Support and Administration account for £54,925 or 44% of its budget and includes items such as rent for the Parish Council Office, utility bills, office sundries, expenses including, personnel costs, training, insurance, annual subscriptions & support packages, SMPC website and newsletter.



- The **Amenities and Services** account for £71,218 or 56% of its budget. The chart below shows how the SMPC budget is spread across its range of amenities and services

SMPC AMENITIES EXPENDITURE



More

detail on the SMPC budget for 2015/2016 can be found on the Parish Council's Website www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk



Superfast Broadband Update Mortimer

Superfast Berkshire has been working with BT Openreach over the last year to extend broadband provision in areas that the private sector deem to be “commercially unviable”. Recently we have seen an upgrade to 3 cabinets to a fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) in our parish. These are Cabinets P1, P2 and P6 which serves 1,495 premises in total (with 94% expected to access a superfast service). The affected postcodes are detailed on the next page:

You can check which cabinet you are connected to at <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/main.html> and enter your landline telephone number.

Please note that Superfast Broadband (greater than 24Mbps) may not be available for all premises within an individual postcode as they may be served by a different infrastructure (i.e. that is not covered or not yet upgraded) or they may be located too far from the cabinet and only be able to receive a reduced speed.

Those wishing to upgrade their broadband should check the available options from a broadband comparison website and place their order. You do not have to use BT, there are usually a number of options. Please note that your broadband speeds will not happen automatically.

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

P1	P2	P6
RG7 2HE	RG7 3DF	RG7 3JE
RG7 2HF	RG7 3QS	RG7 3RJ
RG7 2JJ	RG7 3RL	RG7 3NY
RG7 2JL	RG7 3RF	RG7 3RN
RG7 2JN	RG7 3RJ	RG7 3PB
RG7 2JR	RG7 3RN	RG7 3RP
RG7 2JW	RG7 3RP	RG7 3PE
RG7 2JX	RG7 3RR	RG7 3SY
RG7 2JY	RG7 3RS	RG7 3PJ
RG7 3FJ	RG7 3RT	RG7 3TE
RG7 3XD	RG7 3RU	RG7 3PN
RG7 3SL	RG7 3RX	RG7 3TF
RG7 3SR	RG7 3RZ	RG7 3QN
RG7 3RY	RG7 3SA	RG7 3TG
RG7 3SS	RG7 3SB	RG7 3QU
RG7 3TH	RG7 3SD	RG7 3TH
RG7 3TJ	RG7 3SE	RG7 3QX
RG7 3TL	RG7 3SG	RG7 3TJ
RG7 3TP	RG7 3SH	RG7 3QY
RG7 3TS	RG7 3SJ	RG7 3TQ
RG7 3TT	RG7 3SL	RG7 3RA
RG7 3TU	RG7 3SN	RG7 3TR
RG7 3TW	RG7 3SP	RG7 3RB
RG7 3UB	RG7 3SQ	RG7 3TS
RG7 3TX		RG7 2JS
RG7 3TY		RG7 3RE
RG7 3UD		RG7 3UE
RG7 3UG		RG7 2JT
RG7 3UT		RG7 3RG
RG7 3UU		RG7 3UF
RG7 3UW		RG7 2JU
RG7 3UX		RG7 3RH
RG7 3UY		
RG7 3XA		
RG7 3XB		
RG7 3XE		
RG7 3XF		
RG7 3XG		
RG7 3XH		
RG7 3XQ		

Stratfield Mortimer Community Plan 2015

The Parish Council agreed to support a refresh of the now expired 2004 Stratfield Mortimer Parish Plan refresh as it has many benefits for the village. Some of the benefits that came from the last refresh was the formation of the Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP), a community website and Facebook page, a community (MVP) newsletter, many new clubs such as a Lunch Club for the Elderly in the Community Centre, Youth Club, Gardening Club, a community garden, and better facilities for play on The Fairground.

The Community Plan will be undertaken by members of the local community with £2,000 of SMPC funding.

The Parish Council resolved that this group seek members to include a good section of representation from the Community.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting initiative then please contact Rebecca Barker on bbarkerdg@sky.com or 9332008.

Christmas Tree past, present and future



It is only in recent years that the Parish Council have provided a village Christmas tree. It would be fair to say it has been a learning curve, which has included vandalism, leaning trees and insufficient of decorations. The Parish Council recognises that it is a focal point of the village at Christmas and have resolved and budgeted this year to improve the Christmas tree and lights.

Let's see what 2015 brings.

Cemetery and Cemetery extension



In order to comply with the planning consent from West Berkshire Council and the terms of the Lease from The Englefield Estate the Parish Council has put in place works to start the new Cemetery extension.

The first steps is for the ground is to be levelled, rotavated and seeded and a natural hedge planted around the perimeter. Also an access gate is to be made from the existing Cemetery.

WBC Planning process

Parish Councils are statutory consultees and must be consulted on all planning applications within their Parish. Any statutory comments expressed by a Parish Council will be considered by the Planning Authority before a decision is made.

A Parish Council cannot approve or reject a planning application only make a statutory comment on them.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council Planning meetings and like any of the Parish Council meetings may speak at the beginning of the meeting.

The Agenda and meeting notice is displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards at the Post Office and Library in addition to the Parish Council Website three days before the meeting.

Community Award 2015

The Award Committee has met and considered six nominations and this year's recipient is

Mrs Alison Richardson

The Committee considered that Alison has given outstanding service to the community over a number of years and continues to do so. Her current involvement includes Chair of Governors at St Mary's School, Governor at The Willink School, member of the Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) Committee and member of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Committee. Alison is a fine example of someone who works really hard every week for the good of the village. Alison will be presented with her Award at the Annual Parish Meeting on 15 April.

Neighbourhood Development Plan



The Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is developing well and no doubt many of you will have seen that the Parish Council's NDP

Steering Group held events over a two week period in the old Bugdens shop during the later part of February. The purpose of the events, which consisted of an exhibition and discussion groups, was to inform everyone about the core issues of the NDP and to seek preliminary views on those issues. As of writing it is estimated that about 500 people have attended the exhibition and about that number of the feedback postcards have been filled in.

The feedback from the exhibition will help formulate a questionnaire which will be sent out to every home in the parish. In turn the responses to that questionnaire will effectively form the basis for the policies in the final NDP. So, if the answers indicate a preference for siting homes in one or more places in the village that is what the policies will be based on. Therefore the questionnaire is an important document that will help shape the future of the parish for years to come, so please make sure that you complete and return yours to ensure you have your say!

There will also be another, separate, questionnaire which will look at the types of housing that will be required in the next few years.

The dates for and details of these questionnaires will be placed on the Mortimer NDP website <http://www.mortimer-ndp.org.uk/> as soon as they are available.

Following the analysis of the answers to the questionnaires, draft policies will be developed and placed on the NDP website for comment. These will then be incorporated into the Draft Plan which will go to the Parish Council for approval. Following this there will be a 6 week consultation on the Draft Plan. The final Plan will then go to West Berkshire Council who will organise an Examination-in-Public of the Plan and finally a referendum of the entire parish with a simple yes or no vote.

It is hoped that all this can be completed by late spring of 2016.

Cllr Pat Wingfield

Chairman of the NDP Steering Group

WELCOME TO TWO NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS.

The Parish Council received 7 applications for co-option for the two vacancies on the Parish Council. After interviewing



Andrew

all candidates Tony Butcher and Andrew Richardson were co-opted onto the Parish Council and are now taking an active part.



Tony

History – All tied up!

Does anyone know why the Parish Council would have owned a strait jacket?? Polite responses only!

Following on from the article in June 2014 Parish Council Newsletter ‘**Was Mortimer Once Madder...?**’ The Parish Council renewed its loan agreement with the Hampshire County Council City Museum in Winchester for a further 25 years from 1 November 2014.



The strait jacket was invented in France in 1790. It is a garment shaped like a jacket with overlong sleeves, the long sleeves are crossed over the chest and then tied at the back ensuring little movement. It was typically used to restrain a person to prevent them from harm.

Unfortunately there are no records held in Winchester with the strait jacket on its history of when and how it was used in the parish of Stratfield Mortimer. The staff at the Museum kindly sent the above photo of the actual strait jacket.

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council’s Advertising and Fly Posting Policy Review

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Parish Council and sent their views on advertising within the Parish. The comments have been reviewed and the Parish Council is currently seeking further information and clarity on some of the options that are being considered.

Tennis Court refurbishment

The Parish Council are delighted that the tennis court refurbishment project is now complete and ready for the new Season. This has been made possible by a 100% Inspired Facilities Lottery Grant for the courts and practice ServeAce. The ServeAce, incorporated into the existing fence on the northern side enables one player on their own to practice their shots.



A West Berkshire Council Community Grant partly funded the swish new Sports Shelter on the courts (the difference being met by Parish Council funds) A letter from Nick West, Chairman of Mortimer Tennis Club expresses the Club's gratitude to the Parish Council for all its hard work in arranging for the refurbishment . The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for all her hard work for making it possible.

As part of the tennis court project the new courts were thoroughly inspected by an independent consultant appointed by Sports England. The courts fully passed all the tests. Measurements were made at several places on the courts, with the courts both dry and wet. The equipment was originally designed by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory for road surfaces but is now widely used for sports surfaces.

The two tennis courts are available for public hire .All casual bookings are kindly managed by BUDGENS in Victoria Road. NOTE: Bookings and enquiries can only be made **in person in the store.**

Mondays, Wednesdays, Friday and Saturday 08:00 – 21:00

Tuesdays, Thursday and Sunday 08:00 – 16:00

Sundays bookings please note the last court booking is 15:00 – 16:00

Charges (from 1 January 2015):

Adults: £5.00 per court per hour

- + £5.00 refundable key deposit

Juniors: (under 16) . £2 per court per hour

- + £5.00 refundable key deposit



Part funded PCSO

PCSO Jordon Bruce has been appointed as the part funded PCSO for the parishes of Stratfield Mortimer, Burghfield and Sulhamstead. He came into post on 1 March 2015. PCSO Michael Sturgess has been appointed as the fully funded PCSO for the area.



***The Fairground
Bookings for future
Events***

Burnett's Fair	5 to 10 May
Lawson's Circus	1 to 3 June
Mortimer Fun Day	4 July
Mortimer Music Live – Queen	4 July
South Berks Music Concert	5 July
Mortimer Riding Club	6 September
Burnett's Fair	7 – 13 September
Mortimer Fun Run	27 September



MEMBERS OF STRATFIELD MORTIMER PARISH COUNCIL TO MAY 2015



Mike Dennett (Chairman)
0118 9332985



Julian Earl (Vice Chairman)
0118 9331500



Tracy Audsley
0118 9333185



Pete Blagden
0118 9332546



Anthony Butcher
0118 9331581



John Bull
0118 9333741



Phil Challis
0118 9332589



Austin Colaço
0118 9332697



Dudley Ives
0118 9332077



Neil Kiley
0118 9331150



Mollie Lock
0118 9332858



Angie Phillips
0118 9332396



Andrew Richardson
0118 9333256



Pat Wingfield
0118 9333019



Jayne Kirk (The Clerk)
0118 933 1955



**Frank Stansfield
(Custodian)**

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 10 min Public Questions slot.

Agendas are published at least 3 days prior to meeting.

The dates of the full Parish Council meetings for the next 6 months Meetings are

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
12	16	14	11	9	-

These take place in the Mortimer Methodist Church, West End Road and commence a 7:30pm. There is a Public Questions Slot before the meeting starts in which members of the public may briefly address the Council. Any discussion will not form part of the formal proceedings of the Parish Council but any resultant follow up action will be dealt with separately. The Agenda for full Council Meetings and Committee Meetings are displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards at the Post Office and Library in addition to the Parish Council Website three days before the meeting.

Committee Meetings (including Planning Committee Meetings) are normally held in the Parish Council Office at the rear of Mortimer Library in Victoria Road.

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 **ClIr Mollie Lock**
0118 9332858
ClIr 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

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.

(Entry is via the side gate to the left hand side of the Library)