

STRATFIELD MORTIMER

Parish Council Newsletter Summer 2018



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council



Youth Consultation Project

When undertaking the work for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), the Parish Council became aware it had quite limited knowledge of how young people of the village saw the area and what they liked and disliked. As a result a project was launched to try and find out their views.

The Parish Council approached a charitable organisation called Berkshire Youth to conduct a Youth Consultation. They were appointed at a cost of £2,700 to conduct a survey and report back.



The Berkshire Youth Team delivered consultation sessions with over 300 primary and secondary school students, and completed some out-reach sessions in the local area to collect data.

The students also completed an online questionnaire that explored what is important to them; how they spend their free time; what daily challenges they encounter; and what youth provision would they like to see developed in the area. Of the more than 300 people engaged in the consultation, 136 completed the questionnaire.

Key findings are that: the teenage age group feel there are not enough specific activities or provisions for them; many students are keen to have a cycle/walk way between Mortimer and Burghfield to make their journeys to and from school safer; young people would be keen to take part in activities at a specific 'youth space' and would like there to be more multi-purpose sports pitches and skate/bike areas.

It's felt that some of the challenges and barriers the young people face could be resolved through initiatives in those areas.

In summary, young people have provided some great detail of what they would like to see in Mortimer. To formulate more concrete ideas, a focus group of students from the Willink might help steer the ideas and development plans so they include provisions that keep young people engaged.

Having received and reviewed the report, the Parish Council will start to take it forward, initially, by the NDP Community Projects Committee on the 21st June.

The Annual report of Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council for the year to April 2018

As with most years, 2017/18 has been one of mixed fortunes for the Parish Council but that there have been a lot more plusses than minuses.

The biggest plus was that last summer we finally managed to get a Neighbourhood Development Plan in place. This has already yielded benefits as planning applications now have to take the policies in the NDP into account.

Another positive has been the continued existence of the library, where the Parish Council contributed monies to West Berks to keep it open. A new zebra crossing has been installed and the Fairground car park resurfaced.

On the negative side, there have been problems with getting repairs made to the play equipment and the Parish Council has not been as successful as it would like to have been with communications or in pushing forward on agreed projects. To this end we have put in place a whole raft of internal changes that will now hopefully start to bear fruit.

Other matters that have been or are being dealt with include:

- The commissioning of a survey to determine what the young people of the village want to happen
- The preparation of a report on the future of sport and active leisure in the village
- The successful bid for monies from WBC for the provision of mobile flood lights, extra electricity points on the Fairground and a new entry system for the tennis courts
- The formulation of a heritage trail
- Ongoing work on a new station carpark
- Initial work on a footpath between Mortimer and Burghfield
- The establishment of a biodiversity group
- Responding to the initial consultation for WBC's new local plan, which includes the Grazeley 'garden village'
- Financial support for Handybus
- Longer opening hours for the Parish Office

Finally, this year has seen many changes of personnel to councillors, volunteers and office staff. To all those that have left we would like to say thank you for all your efforts and to all those that have joined we would like to say welcome and thank you for coming on board.

Annual Parish Council Meeting Update.

On the 30th April the village had its Annual Parish Meeting. It was suggested that the meeting should be focused on the hot topic of speeding.

Approximately 85 people attended and were passionately discussing various speeding issues around the village. Glyn Davies from West Berkshire Council and Chris Ward from Thames Valley Police were also present at the top table.



A display had been provided for visitors to digest before the formal part of the meeting which described a lot of the options that could be used to curtail speeding vehicles.

These were horizontal or vertical furniture (often referred to as speed humps or chicanes), village gates, more signage, 20mph zones, more parked cars (yes this was discussed and is factually a very good way of reducing speed).

A show of hands was requested on two occasions:

- One was where the use of speed humps was suggested and approximately 80% of the attendees did not support this kind of deterrent.
- The second was the use of more speed cameras with smiley faces and number plate recognition together with other subliminal methods of traffic calming, i.e. village gates and more speed signage. To this, 66 people were in favour and 3 against.
- To give a balanced view a few, a few attendees felt that the speed limit should actually be raised to 40MPH in the village, but this was far from the view of the majority.

In summing up, the general consensus of those present was that they didn't want speed humps or chicanes and that the best way forward was to investigate village gates, more signage and speed cameras. These ideas have been forwarded to the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee for further action.

Your Parish Council Team

Parish Office

We are delighted that **Lynn Hannawin** has taken up the role of **Clerk to the Council**. Lynn has been working in the Parish Office since March 2017 and brings a great deal of Council and business experience to this role.



We also welcomed **Bernise O'Reilly** to the Parish Office team in March. Bernise has extensive experience from a number of business roles and is already making a big contribution to the efficient running of the Council.

Lynn and Bernise are in the Parish Council Office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

At the May meeting of the Parish Council the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committees are appointed. The following appointments were made in May 2018.

Chairman

Cllr. Tina Reade was appointed as Chairman. Tina has been a Councillor since July 2017 after a long career in business. Tina will be working with Councillors on plans for developing village facilities in Mortimer.



Vice Chairman

We are delighted that Cllr Mike Dennett agreed to continue as Vice Chairman. Mike has been a Councillor for 8 years, and brings a wealth of experience to the Council.



Committees

The Fairground and Cemetery Committees have combined. Committee members have been appointed as follows. Members of the public are also co-opted to some Committees.

Community Projects Committee

Members: **Chairman Pat Wingfield**, Nick Carter, Stephen Hill, Neil Kiley, David Kilshaw, Tina Reade



Communications Committee

Members: **Chairman David Kilshaw**, Nick Carter, Kevin Johnson, Andrew Richardson

Fairground & Cemetery Committee

Members: **Chairman Neil Kiley**, John Bull, Phil Challis, Stephen Hill, Kevin Johnson, Lucy Jones, Mollie Lock



Planning Committee

Members: **Chairman Mike Dennett**, Dudley Ives, Kevin Johnson, Lucy Jones, Neil Kiley, Chris Lewis, Pat Wingfield

Roads, Footpaths & Commons Committee

Members: **Chairman Chris Lewis**, John Bull, Nick Carter, Stephen Hill, Dudley Ives, Kevin Johnson, Lucy Jones, David Kilshaw, Mollie Lock



Finance & General Purposes Committee

Members: **Chairman Tina Reade**, Vice Chairman, Chairmen of Committees, John Bull, Nick Carter, Andrew Richardson.



Mortimer Railway Station Car Park Survey



The Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan has an objective to improve car parking at Mortimer Railway Station. Following pre-application studies with West Berkshire Council, Planning Officers have acknowledged residents' "wish" for additional parking spaces but have raised concerns regarding the "need". The purpose of this survey is therefore to gain information about current travel patterns for residents within the catchment area of Mortimer Station, and particularly whether travel by train for work or leisure is restricted by the amount of car parking that is currently available at the station. The survey seeks to establish whether there is a need for increased parking facilities, and if so, the level of need to be met. For more details, please visit www.pro-vision.co.uk/mortimerstation

Responses to this survey will be anonymous; however, the results of the survey will be compiled into a report which will be submitted to West Berkshire Council in support of a planning application. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and details of how to complete and return the survey are at the end – including an online option.

Section 1 – About your journey to work (If you do not travel to work, leave this section blank and move to Section 2)

1. Thinking about your regular journey to work, what is your main transport mode? (Please circle one)

On foot	Train	Car (sole occupant)	Car share driver/ passenger
Bicycle	Bus	Motorbike	
Other (Please specify):			

2. Please state the main reason for this preferred mode of transport i.e. cost, convenience etc.

3. What is your usual destination? (Please enter the destination e.g. Reading Centre, Green Park, Basingstoke, Newbury, London etc.)

4. How many days a week do you make this journey? (Please circle one)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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5. If you travel in the morning ‘peak’, what is your usual travel time?
(Please circle one)

Before 07:00	07:00 & 07:30	07:30 & 08:00	08:00 & 08:30	08:30 & 09:00	09:00 & 09:30	After 09:30
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6. Thinking about your regular journey to work, could you make the same journey by train? (If you already travel by train, please move to Section 2)

Yes	No	If no, why?
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7. If you answered yes to Question 6, is your decision not to travel by train currently influenced by the lack of car parking at Mortimer Station?

Yes	No	If no, what influences your decision?
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Section 2 – About Mortimer Railway Station

1. How often do you use Mortimer Railway Station? (Please circle one)

Daily	A few times a week	Weekly	Monthly	Less than once a month	Never
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2a. If you answered “never” to Question 1, can you tell us why? (If you do travel by train from Mortimer, move on to Question 3)

Lack of parking?	Cost of train travel?	Availability of services?	Accessibility to platforms?
Other (Please specify):			

2b. If you never travel by train from Mortimer, do you use instead the Mereok Park and Ride to get into Reading?

Yes	No
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2c. If you answered yes to Question 2b, what is your main reason for using the Park and Ride as opposed to the train? (If you answered “no”, move on to Question 3)

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2d. If you answered yes to Question 2b, would more parking at Mortimer Station make you more likely to travel by train? (If you answered “no”, move on to Question 3)

Yes	No
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3. When travelling by train, what is the main purpose of your journey? (Please circle all that apply)

Commuting to and from work	Shopping/Leisure trips	Visiting friends and family	Travel to education
Other (Please specify):			

4. When traveling by train, how do you normally get to the station? (Please circle one)

Car (Sole occupant)	Car/Taxi drop-off	Motorcycle	Bicycle	Walk	Bus
Other (Please specify):					

5. How would you rate the current availability of car parking offered at the station? (Please circle one)

Very good	Good	Neither good nor poor	Poor	Very poor
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6. If you do drive to the station, and cannot find a parking space in the car park do you park on verge of Grazeley Road?

Yes	No
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7. Would you travel by train more frequently if it was easier to park at the station?

Yes	No
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8. If there was more car parking available at the station do you think more people would travel by train?

Yes	No
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9. Do you agree that more car parking should be provided at Mortimer Railway Station?

Yes	No	Comments:

About You

1. Are you:

Employed	Unemployed	Retired	In education
Other (Please specify):			

2. Age:

17 and under	18-24	25-45	46-59	60 plus
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3. What is your street / road name?

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4. Mortimer Station has level access to the Reading bound platform only, could you tell us whether this affects your use of Mortimer Station?

Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Comments:		

Thinking about the purpose of this survey, do you have any other general comments to make?

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Thank you for your time.

How to complete and return this survey:

By Post: The Parish Office, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council, Mortimer Library, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer, Reading, RG7 3SH

By Email: mortimerstation@pro-vision.co.uk

Online Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KJGYLT6>

Please complete and return the survey by Sunday 22nd July

The survey has been prepared by Pro Vision, a Town Planning, Architecture and Urban Design Consultancy, on behalf of Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

West Berkshire Council Members Bid.

District Councillors have the opportunity to propose a suitable project for matched funding by West Berkshire Council (WBC) under their Members Bid programme.

This year Graham Bridgman has secured the funding for 50% of the cost of 2 speed cameras.

These cameras have been researched

as the best solution to help reduce speed in Mortimer, along with other calming measures under consideration by the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee.

One will be a portable Speed Indication Device (SID) similar to the ones seen around the village previously. This device will indicate the speed of passing vehicles and record data about speed of vehicles for later analysis.

The second is a covert camera which will be positioned in various locations around the village. This camera also collates data and photographs vehicles above a preset speed threshold. This can then be used in conjunction with Thames Valley Police.

To give a little background to the SID scheme that we have used up until now, WBC have a SID machine that is available to borrow but they have rules and regulations that the unit cannot be left unattended overnight. This means that the information we gather is limited as it is only for relatively short periods of time. TVP have stated that they require a 2 week window of data to be collated before they will act on speeding if it is seen to be an issue. Secondly, the SID machine used previously can be difficult to retrieve data from. Having our own will mean that we are able to deploy it for longer periods and get a more accurate picture of what is actually happening in the village.



Dates to remember:

Sunday 29th July

Alan Thorpe Trophy

Mortimer Cricket Club vs

Mortimer Village

Sponsored by SMPC

Mortimer cricket ground

Starts at 13:00



Mortimer Fun Day

7th July 2018

The SMPC will be at the Fun Day so please come along, meet the Councillors and have a chat.



Fairground Update

Summer is now with us and there are a number of activities happening on the Fairground.

New fencing has been ordered for the timber post and rail fence along Hammonds Heath to the south side of the conservation area.

Two new picnic tables are about to be ordered and should be installed by late summer.

The playground equipment is shortly due to be repainted and refurbishment of the two spicas, the hip hop rotating see saw and the giant nest is due for refurbishment early July

Plans are in hand to obtain a comprehensive Fairground tree survey to assist us in professional and safe planned management of our trees.



In the longer term, a Fairground Ecological Survey and Conservation Plan has been started and will act as a guide for future management of the Fairground. This report will include the ponds and conservation area.

Cemetery Update

Due to space becoming limited, the Parish Council have leased some extra land from Englefield Estate to allow us to extend the cemetery. To access this will require a small bridge to cross a deep ditch.



A topographical survey has been completed which will enable our consultants to prepare designs for an access bridge from the existing cemetery to the new one.

The Street & Station Road- resurfacing

The WBC Highways team were out marking up the repairs on The Street & Station Road, Mortimer last Wednesday (6th June) and we have been informed that the work will be done over two visits - the provisional programme is:

- Minor kerbing works to start on Monday 9th July and to take three days to complete
- Carriageway resurfacing to start on Wednesday 29th August and take four days to complete.

The resurfacing work will be carried out in two phases with separate official signed diversions (i.e. diversions designed to accommodate lorries, buses, etc. – local traffic might well find alternatives) - one diversion whilst The Street is closed (The Street/Cross Lane/Bloomfield Hatch Lane/Lambswood Hill/Grazeley Green Road/Goring Lane/Mowbray Hill/Brewery Common/Hammonds Heath/The Street) and a different one when Station Road is closed (The Street/Cross Lane/Grazeley Road/Beech Hill Road/Park Lane/The Forehead).

(Please note that these work dates are provisional as Gigaclear have to complete their fibre optic cable laying in the area before WBC can resurface.)

When WBC have firm dates, they or the contractors will erect signs on site and write to nearby residents about 14 days in advance of the work starting.



Other Useful Contacts

Fairground Emergency 0743 6807543 To report any emergencies and dangerous situations on the Fairground.

For **non-emergencies** please contact the Parish Council Office 0118 9331955

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 (WBC) 01635 551111

WBC 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

Cllr Graham Bridgman

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

Parish Council Office

The Library

27 Victoria Road

Mortimer

RG7 3SH

Tel: 0118 933 1955

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

Email Bernise: admin@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Website: www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/stratfieldmortimerparishcouncil

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 Baobab (the old Post Office) and the library.

The Parish Council Office is normally open:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays,

09:30 to 17:00

If the office is closed, correspondence can be left with the library staff or put in the library letter box.