

STRATFIELD MORTIMER PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter–December 2022



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HER LATE MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND THE NATIONAL REFLECTION

Having celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee back at the beginning of June, the Parish Council was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Her Majesty just three months later.

In recognising the sad occasion, the Council were pleased to be able to support the National Moment of Reflection by holding a short but poignant event on the Fairground at 8pm on Sunday, 18th November, giving those that attended the opportunity to pause and reflect on the life service Queen Elizabeth had given to her country.

Thanks to those that supported the event and who enabled it to come together.



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



The organisers had promised Mortimer a weekend of celebrations that would not be forgotten. They certainly surpassed themselves!

The events started in the evening of Thursday 2nd June with two funfairs on the Fairground. The formal part of the event started with the Jubilee Proclamation, followed by a piper playing “Diu Regnare” and a bugler playing “Majesty”, both pieces having been written for the Jubilee. The Jubilee Beacon was lit at 9:45, at the same time as about 1500 beacons across the UK, and burned until the event was over late on Saturday night.

The Friday night entertainment “Moulin Mortimer! (by the House of Dee)” was organised by Mortimer Music Live. It is fair to say that this type of entertainment had not been seen in Mortimer before but was certainly well received by the great majority of the audience. A comment overheard the next day was “It was great - never expected to see that in Mortimer!”.



The ‘Grand Procession’ started at 11am on Saturday morning. The sheer scale and content of this completely amazed the village. The parade was headed by the Reading Scottish Pipe Band followed by extremely enthusiastic Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers from Mortimer, Burghfield, Sulhampstead and Ufton Nervet. There then followed the most amazing display of vehicles of all sorts, classic and veteran cars, modern supercars, commercial vehicles, veteran bus

and coach as well as a steam engine and a US army tank on a transporter. The procession took almost two hours to go from Groves Lea up Victoria Road, down West End Road, into Stephens Road and then back up Victoria Road to the Fairground where most vehicles were on show for the rest of the day. Many thanks and congratulations to all participants who were either walking or driving with continual stops for the two hours.



The bars and funfairs opened at midday and there was a full afternoon of entertainment; with the Clive Fortune Band, the Reading Scottish Pipes and Drums, the Argo Jazz Quintet, the Hurst Singers and Bella Canto all performing. In addition, there were family sports events, a wide range of food concessions and many stallholders in "Market Row". A highlight of the afternoon was the low level fly past by the RAF Lancaster Bomber.



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The Evening music included sets by "Dirtbag", "The Meanies" and "Electric Feel Band", all of which were appreciated by the audience. A live link to Buckingham place for the finale of "Platinum Party at the Palace" and the National Anthem was followed by Mortimer's own firework display. DJ James Carter then ended the evening with his set, as he also had on the Friday evening.

The detailed planning and execution were undertaken by a parish council working group led by Cllr Simon Beard. The group comprised of some

councillors along with a much greater number of others from the village and other organisations. Whilst many people contributed to the event, the two main organisations involved were Mortimer Music Live (MML) and Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP).

MML were responsible for all technical aspects of the stage events, the Friday entertainment, arranging the Saturday daytime and evening stage acts and the bars. MVP were responsible for the catering concessions, the market stalls on the Saturday and a refreshment tent. Members of the working group were responsible for the other parts of the event such as the beacon lighting on Thursday evening, the grand procession and car show on Saturday, the Lancaster flypast, the music and sports events on Saturday afternoon, the Lucy Ticket draw and the firework display.



The bars were run by the Burghfield Santas. The arrangement was that they would run the bars for 20% of the bar profits which they would donate to Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Thus, the air ambulance received £2,035 from the parish council (Saturday bar) and £882 from MML (Friday bar). In addition, each bar volunteer was able to nominate a local charity for a small donation and a total of £960 was donated in this manner.

An event of this scale is obviously expensive to run. The main sources of income were donations from sponsors, the bar profits, the commission from the funfairs, the lucky ticket sales, income from the food concessions and stall holders and profits from the MVP refreshment tent. Expenditure comprised of the obvious things such as the stage acts, the hire of the big screen, sound equipment, marquees and toilets and the firework display. But there were also less obvious items of expenditure such as insurance, security, medical cover and management of the road

closures. The income didn't quite cover the expenditure with the net result that the event cost the parish council the relatively modest sum of £8,200 of which £2,700 was donated to charities.

The dedicated team had been working on the event for about 30 months (originally the event was planned for the VE75 celebrations). The team was led by Simon Beard (SMPC) working alongside Ryan Saunders (MML) and Doug Overett (MVP). The working party included (in no particular order!) Simon Beard, Ryan Saunders, Doug Overett, Graham Bridgman, Dave Kilshaw, Nick Carter, Keeleigh Field, Eric Howell, Andy Bell, Nick Hearn, Adrian Smith, Poppy Smith, Dan Jefcoate, Richard Coles, Jay Sylva, Pete Tomlinson and Jon Ward.

The MML team, responsible for Moulin, Music and Fireworks, was led by Ryan Saunders and Dave Kilshaw and the management was expertly executed by Nick Moxley, Paul Mortimer, Louis Martin, Harley Wing, Graham Bridgman, Charles Kilshaw, Kev Strong, Paul Baird, Hellen Baird, Kate Pike, Danielle Harrison, Samson Lace, Archie Bourne and Craig Wooldridge.

The MVP activities were coordinated by Doug Overett and Julia Meadows. We thank them and all their volunteers.

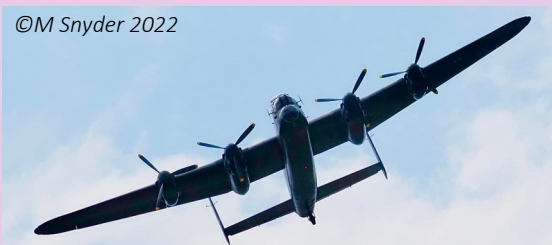
The procession was planned by Eric Howell, Andy Bell, Adrian Smith, Simon Beard and Richard Coles. The expenditure on this was small, the main items being management of the road closures and part of the insurance cover. Only one vehicle was hired; the open top double decker bus which carried the Mortimer under 11 football team and was subsequently used as a bar. All the other vehicles were provided by their owners free of charge. It was so good of them all to bring their vehicles and give up their time to make the event such a success. We thank them all and particular thanks to Eric Howell for calling on his amazing contacts in the classic vehicle world and in managing the procession and car show.

SMPC would also like to thank all those who volunteered during the event for all sorts of duties, such as building and dismantling the stage, acting as road marshals, litter picking, car parking, etc. We also thank Nick Hearn and Poppy Smith for recruiting and managing the volunteers.

Finally, the event would not have possible without the generous sponsor-

ship we received from local businesses. Some sponsors donated money, others provided facilities and equipment etc at zero or highly reduced costs. We thank you all and hope this list is complete! So, very many thanks to:

Englefield Estate, Day Aggregates Ltd, Waller Construction, Earthline Ltd., Hills Quarry Products Ltd, The Baobab, Entric Services Ltd, Spratley's of Mortimer, The Coop Mortimer, Morrisons Mortimer, Mead-cotes Pubs (Horse and Groom), Triangle Travel, TA Fisher, De Vere (Wokefield), David Cliff Estate Agents, Lindum Construction Services, Village Eye, Berkshire Printing & Finishing, Claude Fenton Plant Hire Ltd, Alan Hadley Skip Hire Ltd, John Stacey & Sons Ltd, Reading Football Club, Virgin Experiences.



THE PARISH COUNCIL

To fill vacancies on the council, **David Butler** and **Heath Geary** were co-opted at our Full Council meeting in June and **Michael Shaw** more recently in September.

David Butler has become a member of the Fairground and Cemetery Committee and the Planning Committee. He has also joined the Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath/Cycleway Working Party.

Heath Geary has become a member of the Fairground and Cemetery Committee and the Planning Committee.

Michael Shaw has become a member of the Fairground and Cemetery Committee and the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee. He has also joined the Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath/Cycleway Working Party and The Street Footway Working Party.

Contact details for David, Heath and Michael and all councillors are available on the SMPC website see: [Council – People](#).

The council has fifteen councillors and currently these are:

Mike Dennett (Chairman), Danusia Morsley (Vice Chairman and Chairman of Planning Committee), David Butler, Graham Bridgman, Nick Carter, Keeleigh Field, Heath Geary, Stephen Hill (Chairman of Fairground and Cemetery Committee), Dave Kilshaw, Chris Lewis, Mollie Lock, Amanda Marsden (Chairman of Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee), Andy Noonan, Michael Shaw and John Wells.

The council continues in office until next May (2023) when it is dissolved and an election for all fifteen places will be held.





NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following a public survey and discussions with stakeholders, the 'steering group' has created draft proposals for both the update to and full revision of the Neighbourhood Plan. The update, aimed for completion in the first half of 2023, focuses on the intended use of land that was set aside in 2017 for a new infant school and doctors' surgery. The later revision is wider-ranging and aims to reflect both emerging national/district policies and the latest community priorities. The new Neighbourhood Plan is aimed for completion by Autumn 2024.

Last month, the group ran public drop-in sessions to share and discuss the plans. There is still time to comment on the proposals, outlined below. Please provide any feedback to us by 31 January (email: newnp@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)

Full details available in separate leaflet distributed with this newsletter.

AUTOMATIC SPEEDWATCH CAMERA and SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

You tell us, and we know from personal experience, that speeding in excess of 30 mph in some areas of the parish remains a significant and dangerous problem.

We have for some time been regularly deploying our SID (Speed Indicator Device) machine in various locations. This has been invaluable in identifying the 'Hot Spots' – the places where speeding persistently occurs. However, the SID machine does not enable action to be taken.

Consequently the parish council has invested in a new machine: an ASWC (Automatic SpeedWatch Camera) which records the data on vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The machine is operated by members of the parish council and the community who have firstly undergone and passed the required training.



The valuable data acquired by the SID enables the efficient deployment of the ASWC in locations known to be problematic in terms of vehicles exceeding the speed limit with the consequent transfer of the data of offending vehicles to the police for further action. With these two machines operating in tandem, we are set to tackle speeding in the parish much more effectively.

If you would be interested in volunteering to join the team who give their time to address this important issue, please contact the parish council for further information and to volunteer.

STRATFIELD MORTIMER PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS

This year the parish council created a new Community Grant Fund to provide financial support to charity, voluntary and non-commercial organisations running initiatives for the benefit of the parish and/or its inhabitants. Applications are limited to £1500 and the total pot this year was £10,000.

Four applications were received and, after checking for eligibility and discussion of benefits to the village, the November 10th full council meeting voted to award all four. They are:

- 1st Mortimer Scout Group: £1500 towards their program of upgrading the Scout HQ in Birch Lane with improved equipment storage, female toilets, new kitchen and, eventually, solar panels
- Mortimer Toddler & Baby Group: £500 for a Christmas party for about 25 1-4 year olds and including £150 for Christmas decorations which will be shared with Mortimer Lunch Club
- Mortimer Lunch Club: £1500 towards providing a substantial hot meal during the winter months for up to 40 elderly residents.
- Citizens Advice Tadley: £1500 towards their core costs shortfall of £22k for 22/23 to enable them to maintain services

As this leaves £5000 in the Community Grant Fund reserve, a further application process will follow later in the financial year.

COMMUNITY AWARDS 2020 & 2021

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 26th April 2022 at St John's Hall and included the presentation of the Stratfield Mortimer Community Awards for 2020 and 2021 to Jennifer Broom and Neil Johnson respectively. (*Minutes of the APM are available on the SMPC website.*)



Jennifer Broom

for a large range of community activities over many years. These included manning the phones and driving for the Volunteer Bureau, helping out with administration at the doctor's surgery after her retirement as a surgery nurse and making weekly deliveries of prescriptions to those who could not collect. Mrs Broom has also been a long-term member of the Church Choir and Mortimer Dramatic Society.



Neil Johnson

for over 50 years service to the scouting movement and the youth of the parish and surrounding area. Neil has also greatly contributed to the organisation and running of many community events, including the Remembrance Day parades and ceremonies. He has been Group Scout master since 1999. He took over this role from his father Peter (Skip) Johnson who was awarded the SMPC Community Award in 1988.

Keep an eye out for the 2022 nominations opening up in the new year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF STRATFIELD MORTIMER PARISH COUNCIL

2021/22

Report presented by Cllr M Dennett at the Annual Parish Meeting held in St John's Hall on 26th April 2022.

This report covers the period April 2021 to March 2022. This time last year we were still in lockdown but there has been a gradual return to normal activities, such as the Remembrance Service which took its normal form in November.

The routine maintenance of the Fairground continued as usual, including cleaning of the tennis courts. New lines were painted on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). More substantial works were undertaken to improve the access to the Community Centre, both to the main entrance and to the side door by installing a footpath. About £25,000 of adult fitness equipment has been ordered for the Fairground.

Work at the parish cemetery has continued with a bridge now in place to access the extension. Detailed planning of the layout of the extension is about to start. Sadly, vandals using a chainsaw felled five mature trees in the Cemetery around midnight one night last November. The police investigated but with no results. Another mature tree was felled by storm Eunice.

The council has been trying to widen and improve the footpath down to St Mary's School. The work has been paid for by West Berkshire Council (WBC). The plan is to clear back to the edge of the highway land, reinstate the footpath where necessary and to consider what retaining structures are needed to support the verges. Work has also continued on the proposed Cycleway/Footway to Burghfield. A pre-planning application was made to WBC. This gave excellent feedback with clear thoughts on the possible route. The next stage is to undertake the necessary surveys (topographical, arboricultural, ecological etc).

The council has been involved in many other activities. A Climate and Environment Working Party has been set up and through which the council has joined a community led initiative called "The Greening Campaign".

With supporting funds from WBC, the council has purchased a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which displays the speed of vehicles passing it. It has also purchased an Automatic Community Speedwatch Camera (AWSC).

Three flowering cherry blossom trees were planted near the Pound & Heath Elm pond. These were donated by WBC to commemorate local residents who passed away during COVID-19.

The council's planning committee met 16 times during the year and gave comments to WBC on 41 applications. The committee is in active discussion with WBC about the display of the orange signs at the sites of planning applications. These are often appearing after the committee has had to consider the applications, effectively preventing residents from commenting on applications.

The council sets its budget each January for the following financial year (April to March). For 2022/23 the precept request to WBC was virtually the same as in the previous year. As there had been a small increase in the number of properties in the parish, your contribution to SMPC through council tax was reduced by 1.75%. Details of the budget were given in the April 2022 newsletter.

In January 2022 the council resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence. This basically means that the Council can do anything reasonable that an individual can do. The council has used this power in two matters. It enabled councillors to help residents of Windmill Court in their discussions with Sovereign Housing. It also enabled the council to establish a Community Grant Fund.

Various changes to council membership occurred during the year. At the time of this meeting (26th April 2022) the councillors were Mike Dennett, Danusia Morsley, Simon Beard, Graham Bridgman, Nick Carter, Keeleigh Field, Stephen Hill, Dave Kilshaw, Chris Lewis, Mollie Lock, Amanda Marsden, Andy Noonan and John Wells with two vacancies. Dudley Ives resigned in March 2022 after 17 years as a councillor. Thank you Dudley for all your service.

Plans are well underway for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event. A working group lead by Cllr. Simon Beard has put together an amazing programme of events. The timetable has been widely distributed via a flier in Village Eye. It's going to be a massive weekend, thanks Simon.

Finally, I wish to thank our three employees, Lynn, Bernise and Frank for all their hard work and dedication to the council during the last year.



MORTIMER'S REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mortimer's Remembrance Day Service and parade took place on 13th November. The turnout was excellent and better than in 2021 when, as we were beginning to emerge from Covid, there was nervousness about attending. Thank you for all involved in organising and conducting the service and to all who attended.

Cllr. Mike Dennett, Chairman attended the Church Service which took place immediately after the War Memorial Service and included the reading of the names from the War Memorial. The service, prompted Cllr. Dennett to reflect on two aspects of Remembrance in Mortimer, which you may either have forgotten or, if you are new to Mortimer, may not be aware of.

In November 2020 we were deep in Covid and the normal service could not be held. Some early morning secret filming sessions took place on Remembrance Day for the reading of the names and a strictly limited service held at 7am on the day, much to the astonishment of a few passers-by. The result was a video which was shown on Facebook that morning. The video was superbly edited by the team using their considerable professional expertise (credits are on the video). A link to the video may be found by searching on "remembrance" on the SMPC website.

Additionally, in 2016 the council put online the results of research carried out on the names on our War Memorial. Undertaken by Major John Kemp, the research includes short notes on each name and a hyperlink to Commonwealth War Graves Commission records for that casualty, including cemetery and grave location where known. To access this on the SMPC website go to "What We Do" and then "War Memorial".

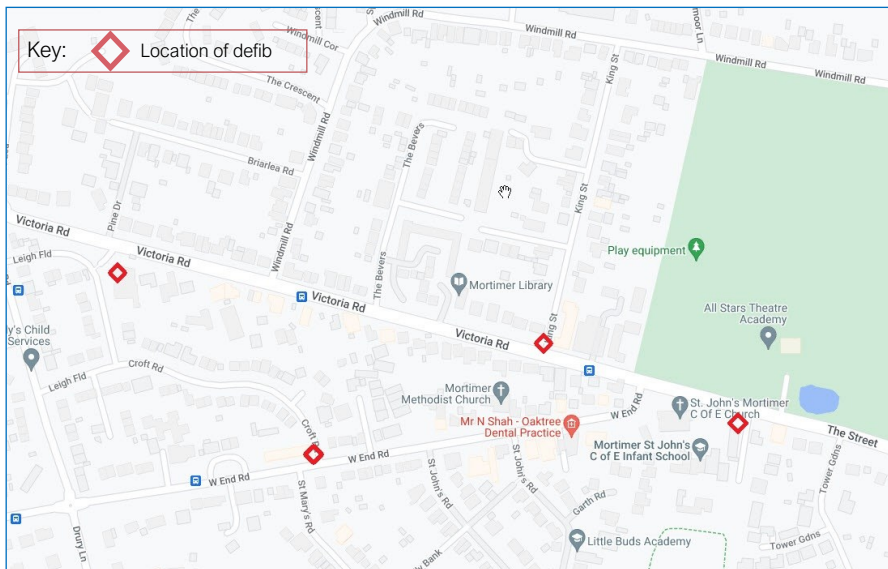
To ensure that we never forget, the council has purchased a new set of 'Tommies' which are permanently installed by Heath Elm Pond.

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

Stratfield Mortimer is served by several defibrillators located around the village and available for emergency use by members of the public and emergency services.

The parish council manages the three iPAD machines located outside the surgery, the Horse & Groom public house and outside Samson & George on Croft Road. These three devices recently had a software update and new batteries installed.

In 2021, the parish council purchased an ZOLL3 machine from the Community Heartbeat Trust which is now installed in the old BT K9 kiosk adjacent to the Co-op shop. Unfortunately, this machine was removed from its cabinet in the summer, but a good Samaritan found and returned it via Thames Valley Police. On its return, we discovered damage and the battery was missing. After prompt assistance from the Trust, the machine went back to the manufacturer (in the USA) for a repair and is now safely back on duty.



GREENING CAMPAIGN

The Greening Campaign is a nationwide community initiative to work together and make simple changes to our daily lives that will really make a difference to climate change and our environment. Working together makes change easier, and working together as a community provides support and encouragement.

We all feel overwhelmed by the enormity of climate change but if we all just focus on our own community, we can create a patchwork of 'green communities' right across the country. It's up to us!

On 14th January 2023 we will officially launch the Campaign for Stratfield Mortimer.

This will be both a festive and informative occasion at which, as a Community, we will take on challenges (small changes to our daily lives) that will reduce our carbon footprint AND save ourselves money in the process.

This is Phase 1.

If we have the appetite, we will progress to Phase 2: an exciting programme bringing 3 Pillars of support to our community. It follows on from the ground we prepared in Phase 1.

Using this solid foundation, we will begin to tackle the more serious issues; the Three Pillars: Space for Nature, Health & Wellbeing in light of Climate Change, and Energy and Greener Homes.



For more information visit our website:
<https://www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk/what-we-do/greening-mortimer>

Or just join us on **14th January – Methodist Hall – 2:00 p.m.**

WINDMILL COURT PETITION

Some residents of Windmill Court approached the parish council for help in their issues with its proposed demolition and replacement with family houses by Sovereign Housing.

In order to progress such a project, Sovereign have asked West Berkshire Council to remove various legal restraints over the land, and it was thought that the WBC Executive would discuss this at their meeting on 22 September. The parish council assisted the residents in setting up a petition to ask the WBC Executive not to agree to Sovereign's request - Nick Carter and Rebecca Barker were the official promoters of the petition and 1,073 signatures were collected.

The petition was, indeed, presented at the WBC Executive meeting on the 22 September and Nick Carter and Danusia Morsley spoke about the issue at that meeting. In the event the agenda for the meeting did not include any item relating to the Sovereign request, so the petition was received but no debate took place – as and when it does appear on a WBC Executive agenda Nick and Danusia should be invited back to speak again.

In the meantime, Sovereign Housing is continuing to review its plans and we wait to see if any changes to the original concept are proposed.



MORTIMER YOUTH CLUB - DONATED

Mortimer Youth Club dissolved several years ago leaving funds of £3,477.27. The funds have been donated to the parish council with the proviso that the council uses them to provides services or facilities to benefit young people in the local area who are between the ages of 14 to 18 years, which was the main target age group for both the youth club and the Duke of Edinburgh group.

If you have any suggestions as to how these funds should be spent, please email them to admin@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk.



WEST END ROAD CAR PARK

The parish council rents the car park next to Dads Shop from West Berkshire Council. The regular general maintenance is undertaken by the Village Custodian, whilst the flowers in the borders at the front were planted and nurtured by one of the dedicated village volunteers.

It had become apparent that the old concrete border, along the left hand side of the car park, was in a sorry state of repair so contractors were employed to remove the offending blocks and undertake remedial work where necessary.

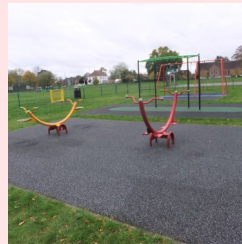
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND REPAIRS

Back in the summer, work was undertaken in the two play areas to both replace old and damaged equipment and freshen up paintwork and surfaces. In the younger age group's play area, the monkey bars and very old toddler swings were replaced, and the roundabout was repainted. The entrance near the slide now sports a new Ryno Pave surface, replacing the old worn concrete. Patch repairs were also carried out on the surface of the Multiplay unit.



In the older age group's play area, the protective sleeves covering the chains on the Titan were replaced along with the Hip Hop seat. In addition, the Swing Dome seat and surface, both worn through the Swing Dome's popularity with visiting children (and adults?), were replaced. Unfortunately, criminal damage was sustained to the Swing Dome's new surface whilst it was drying – despite being fenced off – but the contractors promptly resolved the issue and took steps to reduce the risk of further damage being done.

All the play area equipment and the MUGA have weekly, quarterly, and annual safety and/or maintenance checks. The resulting reports received are reviewed by the Fairground and Cemetery Committee, and the Committee Chairman and Clerk and action taken accordingly to address issues. Any problems spotted by members of the public should be reported to the parish council office.



CYCLEWAY AND FOOTPATH BETWEEN MORTIMER AND BURGHEFIELD



Following on from the pre-application with West Berkshire Council, the parish council has been commissioning and obtaining all the reports and surveys that were indicated as necessary for a planning application.

These include: a Topographical survey, Stage 1 Safety Audit, Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Ecological Impact Assessment, Highways Assessment, and Lighting Assessment (there are no plans for lighting along the route)

The surveys have now been completed and we are moving on to the initial design work prior to submitting a planning application for consideration by West Berkshire Council.

FOOTWAY ALONG THE STREET

The parish council has been trying to find ways to improve the footway along The Street for a long time.



It is not possible to achieve a wider footway all the way down the route as in some parts private land abuts right up to the current narrow pavement.

West Berkshire Council Highways did cut back the vegetation growing on their

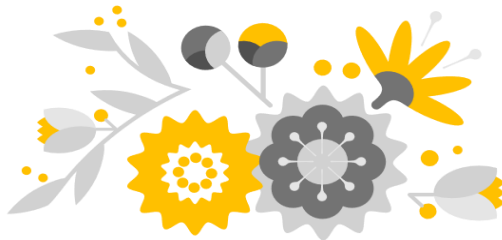
land earlier this year. The parish council have met with them several times to examine the issues at various points down the hill.

WBC Highways agreed that several places were dangerous and discussed what could be done to widen the pavement slightly in some locations, mend the pavement surface in others and also look at some measures to prevent /slow down the vegetation encroaching back onto the pavement. Unfortunately, the most recent communication from WBC Highways is that they are unable to do anything further until January 2023 at the earliest.

OVERGROWN HEDGES

Everyone whose garden abuts a pavement, or road, is obliged to keep their vegetation cut back to their boundary to allow for easy use of the pavement or road.

The parish council urges everyone to be mindful of this responsibility. West Berkshire Council produces a leaflet outlining this and the parish council will be delivering one of these to houses where overhanging vegetation is noticeable as a reminder to owners.



FITNESS EQUIPMENT

This summer, the adult fitness equipment, highlighted as one of the community projects supported by residents, was installed onto The Fairground in the recreation area. Wicksteed Leisure equipment was selected after several brands were compared for quality and cost.

The machines were installed in July just as the exceptionally hot weather hit and consequently ground conditions changed which resulted in a delayed opening for which the parish council apologise. However, hopefully you agree it was worth the wait, and it is wonderful to see this facility being used by such a wide range of ages and levels of fitness.

For safety reasons, this equipment is for the use of adults and adolescents who are at least 1.4m tall.

There are six machines: skier; rower; leg press; chest press and pull down combo; surfer; and space walker. Together these provide users access to a comprehensive or targeted workout for a range of fitness levels. Each machine provides instructions for use.

To protect the aesthetics of our lovely Fairground, the equipment has been installed on grass through rubber matting which hopefully will see the grass fully re-established in the spring.

We would welcome your feedback on the equipment and the facility it provides – please do let us know your thoughts.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Burghfield and District Branch of the Royal British Legion is here to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families. They will reach out to ex-service people who live in the area to provide support and advice if it is needed.

If you know of anyone who might need help, please contact the Secretary (Jane Steeds) on 0118 983 2320.



The branch also hold meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the BCSA, James Lane, Burghfield. As well as a chance to get together, the meetings include speakers on every imaginable subject from the Battle of Britain to Rowing Across the Atlantic.

WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY PANEL

Join the West Berkshire Council Community Panel and have your say!

It is vital that West Berkshire Council receive information from a wide range of residents from every part of West Berkshire and, by joining the panel, residents can state if they have any particular area of concern/interest that they would like to raise, e.g. Environment or cost of living issues.

You can apply to join at <https://westberks.gov.uk/community-panel-apply>

COMMUNITY NEWS

MORTIMER LIBRARY

Opening Times: Monday 1pm—5pm
Tuesday 9.30am—5pm
Friday 1pm—6pm
Saturday 10am—12.30pm

The library provides free internet access and free WiFi, and hot drinks are available.

Monday Book Group

First Monday of every month 2pm-4pm

Tuesday Book Group

First Tuesday of every month 10am-11.30am

Rhyme Time (toddlers to 5 years)

Every Tuesday (term time) 2.30pm-3pm

Craft and Chat

Monday fortnightly

Lego Club

Last Friday of the month 3pm-5pm

Board Games

Every Friday 3pm-5pm

You are assured of a warm welcome from Séan, Miichelle and the team. For more information, call 0118 933 2882 or email mortimerlibrary@westberks.gov.uk

The website is at www.westberks.gov.uk/mortimer-library

USEFUL CONTACTS

Fairground Emergency - report any emergencies and dangerous situations on The Fairground: 0743 6807543

For **non-emergencies** 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

Email: streetcare@westberks.gov.uk

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

West Berkshire District Councillors for the Burghfield & Mortimer Ward:

Cllr Graham Bridgman - Graham.Bridgman@westberks.gov.uk

Cllr Royce Longton - Royce.Longton1@westberks.gov.uk

Cllr Geoff Mayes - Geoffrey.Mayes1@westberks.gov.uk

Mortimer Village Partnership - For village news and information on events, including a directory of local clubs and businesses:

www.mortimervillage.org.uk

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

Parish Council Office working hours:

Mondays, Tuesdays&Thursdays

09:30 to 17:00

Website: www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stratfieldmortimerparishcouncil

The website provides announcements and information on meetings, policies, councillors and committees. Council notices are also published on Facebook, the Parish Council noticeboards outside The Baobab (the former Post Office) and the library.