



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Report

27/11/2025

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Clerk's Report- Appendix 25/061

1 Hedge Management

Following discussion at the Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 30 October, a response was sent to Andrew regarding the proposed new process for Notices & Orders (N&O) relating to overhanging vegetation.

The Council expressed concern that the suggested approach is unlikely to improve the current situation. The Parish Council already writes to residents and forwards unresolved cases to WBC, but this has not been effective. The new proposal lacks defined timescales for action and includes no clear enforcement mechanisms or penalties for non-compliance.

The response highlights the ongoing safety issues caused by unchecked hedge growth, particularly during summer and early autumn. Overgrown hedges and brambles obstruct pavements, force pedestrians (including schoolchildren) into the road, and obscure 30mph roundels, exacerbating speeding risks.

The Council has requested that WBC introduce a more urgent, enforceable process to ensure prompt action where vegetation presents a danger on the highway.

2 Fly Tipping in Drury Lane

The Officer has received and responded to several complaints regarding Fly tipping in Drury Lane. Proactive action has been taken to identify the offenders and correspondence has been sent to West Berkshire Council. A response was received from West Berkshire Council (Kofi Adu-Gyamfi, Service Lead – Climate Change) following the Parish Council's enquiry regarding repeated fly-tipping along Drury Lane.

WBC confirmed they are aware of the situation and have recently cleared a fly-tip of bricks and pallets that had blocked the road. They acknowledge that there have been repeated incidents in recent weeks. The Waste team and its contractor will be increasing monitoring of the area and considering additional deterrent measures, including signage.

WBC cannot guarantee that these measures will prevent further incidents but will continue to do their best. They have requested that any information from residents that may assist in building an enforcement case is passed on to them.

3 CIL Training

West Berkshire Council have confirmed the CIL training on 10 December at 18:30, it will take place in Mortimer Library.

4 Mailchimp

The Office has signed up to the Mailchimp service and has been distributing updates to residents using its service. The Email subscription service is working well and as of the 21 November it has 589 subscribers.

5 Vacancies

Further to the resignation of Cllr A Richardson, no requests were received to fill the vacancy by election. Three current vacancies have been readvertised. One application has been received and will be taken to the meeting of the full Council on 15 January.

6 Training

The Office is progressing well with the CiLCA portfolio submissions and has registered for additional training in VAT and Assertion 10. It has also recently completed an SLCC online training course on Planning Obligations, covering both Section 106 agreements and CIL.

Miss Danielle Davis- 21/11/2025